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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you visited or do
you plan to visit the Taste
of the Marianas festival
this month?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



MYSN Awardee

Saipan businessman Anthony Pellegrino is named 2010 Youth Services Supporter of the Year.

LOCAL...Page 18



War Drums

South Korea accuses North Korea of firing a torpedo that sank a naval warship in March.

ASIA...Page 22



No Third

Megan Fox has been dropped from the third "Transformers" movie.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 28

Desk audit begins at DPS, DCCA



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

BOATING SAFETY WEEK

Boating Safety officers and the U.S. Coast Guard prepare to launch a rescue boat at the Smiling Cove Marina on Tuesday for a search-and-rescue operation exercise. The scenario involved rescuing a pilot of an airplane that crashed in the ocean west of Saipan. The exercise was held as part of the 2010 Safe Boating Week campaign for the CNMI. DPS Boating Safety and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be at the Smiling Cove Marina tomorrow, May 22, from 8am to 12pm to answer questions and conduct vessel safety checks. For more information on Safe Boating Week and general boating safety, contact DPS Boating Safety Division at (670) 664-9180, the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Saipan at (670) 236-2969, or visit the Coast Guard's boating safety Web site at www.uscgboating.org.

His contract calls for removal with cause or without cause. There is a no need for a reason. I just relieved him as deputy commissioner and served him his termination letter.

—DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro has been relieved of his post.

DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he served Ogumoro his walking papers

on Wednesday at 3pm.

At that time, Ogumoro had just finished conducting a news briefing where he lambasted the Drug Enforcement Administration and DEA Guam-CNMI resident agent-in-charge Antonio Marquez for alleged credit-grabbing.

Tudela said Ogumoro's press conference

See TUDELA on Page 4

**Flores junks Kagman site for animal shelter. PAGE 3
CHC to lose doctor; four new contracts signed. PAGE 5**

» **\$300,000 contract awarded for desk audit**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration awarded a contract of some \$300,000 to the Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc. to conduct a desk audit of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

See AUDIT on Page 4



Inos

Fitial wants feds to speed up deportations

» **ICE says NMI is the one delaying process**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial told a congressional hearing that the CNMI is "gravely concerned by the slow pace" of removal and deportation proceedings by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement since the federal gov-

See FITIAL on Page 4



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NMC to hand out degrees, diplomas to 162 graduates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Northern Marianas College and its Board of Regents will present degrees and diplomas to 162 graduation candidates in tomorrow's 30th commencement exercises at the Marianas High School gymnasium.

"We are extremely proud of the graduating class of 2010.

They have endured the many challenges of college life and we are honored to be participating in the celebration of their great achievements," said interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera. "We are inviting the public to witness this momentous occasion, along with families and friends of the graduates, and the entire NMC community."

The ceremony will start at 4pm and will feature long-time educator Sam McPhetres as keynote speaker. This year's theme is "Navigating through obstacles, guided by knowledge, destined for success."

A total of 18 students will be conferred diplomas under the bachelor's degree in elementary education program, 35 under the associate degree in liberal arts program, five in nursing, three in business, and 15 in business administration.

The associate degree for hospitality management will have three candidates for graduation,

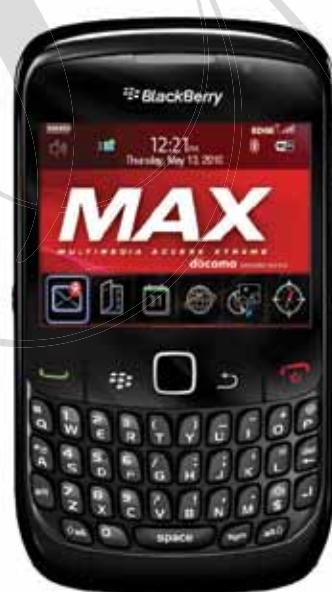
the same number for the criminal justice program. There will be one graduate each for audio/visual production, nursing assistant, and computer application programs.

Seventy will receive certificates of completion under the adult high school education program, while 13 will earn their GED (general education development) certificates.

Besides the top academic honors, NMC will also be presenting the prestigious Student Leadership Awards to Miles Rodriguez and Roxanne Ferrer for exemplary leadership skills and maintaining the highest grade point average in their academic program levels.

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band led by musical director Will DeWitt will be performing the national and CNMI anthems and Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance*, the traditional music played for the graduation march.

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Flores junks Kagman site for animal shelter

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores has decided to scrap a plan to build a permanent animal shelter in Kagman due to environmental concerns.

Flores cited the lack of a sewer system, waterway problems, and its impact on the health of residents for the decision.



Flores

and sewer system, which are very important," he said.

The Kagman site is a 2,000-square-meter land adjacent to the Forestry Division site of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

In lieu of the Kagman site, Flores wants the temporary dog facility in Lower Base to become a permanent animal shelter.

Flores announced

Tuesday that local dog permits would soon be released and the construction of the dog facility is expected to be completed within the year. Construction at the Lower Base facility was put

on hold last year because of permitting issues.

The mayor estimates that Saipan has about 60,000 stray animals, reflecting an average of three to five dogs per family in the community. He said this number as "alarming" and must be addressed.

The mayor's office expects to raise a significant amount of revenue once the project is fully implemented. The license costs \$18 per pet. The amount raised will be used as a revolving fund for the animal control program.

The Saipan Municipality's Dog Control Rules and Regulations were first established in 2003. The mayor's office was awarded \$75,000 as initial funding for the program under Saipan Local Law 9-12. However, the project was stalled for many years due to the lack of additional funding.

bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environment may also contain these bacteria, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ said samples collected from the two sites contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These

DEQ red-flags 2 Saipan beaches

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on Tanapag Meeting Hall and the DPW Channel Bridge and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said samples collected from the two sites contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These



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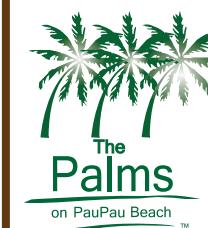
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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS WEEK

Hopwood Jr. High School celebrates "Support Our Troops Week." From left to right, top, are Hopwood's troopers: Clarissa Mobel, Leslie Sablan, Arayane Maratita, Didiich Tudela, and Michael Berbes (not in picture). Bottom, from left, are Hopwood school administrators: vice principal-Admin John Pialur, vice principal-Curriculum Natalie Hill, vice principal-Discipline Felisa Brel, and principal Jonas M. Barcina. Thank you to all the troops for your commitment and dedication to student learning and fighting for freedom and country.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FITIAL

From Page 1

overnment took over local immigration on Nov. 28, 2009.

He said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its component agencies like ICE and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection have not effectively reduced the number of illegal aliens in the CNMI.

But ICE said the CNMI Department of Labor is the one delaying the process by not providing the additional information ICE requires to take action on any of these leads.

"ICE has made repeated unsuccessful requests to DOL for the required additional biographical information for more than 500 referrals, but DOL has yet to respond to these requests. ICE is ready to review and determine appropriate action on the DOL referrals as soon as we receive the necessary follow-up information," Lori K. Haley of ICE's public affairs officer/spokeswoman told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial said to speed up the process of removal and deportation, ICE and the U.S. Department of Justice should use video conferencing facilities to handle more cases.

He said DOJ can designate CNMI judges and lawyers experienced in handling deportation cases, to assist ICE officials in the handling of immigration hearings.

The governor said the CNMI requires a higher priority with respect to illegal aliens, while ICE has a stated objective of initiating removal proceedings first and foremost against aliens who have engaged in criminal activity.

Fitial's statement about ICE forms part of his 12-page testimony to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife during an oversight hearing on U.S. Public Law 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

"The CNRA was enacted in large measure because of the conviction that federal control was necessary to deal with, among other issues, the number of illegal aliens in the CNMI. Sooner or later, Congress will have to address seriously whether in fact the implementa-

tion of the CNRA by the Department of Homeland Security has aggravated, rather than improved, the security situation in the Commonwealth," he added.

He said DHS component agencies have not developed and enforced an effective program to identify and remove illegal aliens in the CNMI, with the result that the national security objectives of the CNRA are not being achieved to the detriment of the CNMI and its citizens.

Flight data

Fitial went on to say that the CNMI "has an ongoing responsibility for enforcing its local labor laws," at least until Nov. 27, 2011.

"That is why the Commonwealth recently requested airline flight data from CBP in order to facilitate the collection and timely processing of the entry and exit data and eliminate the need for collecting duplicative passport information from arriving travelers," he said.

The governor further criticized CBP's inability to identify any overstayer from among the tourists that they admitted after taking over immigration function in the CNMI.

"For the Commonwealth, this is an unacceptable situation. The failings of the U.S. immigration data system have burdened the United States with overstaying tourists and others for years. The failings of the U.S. system will similarly burden the Commonwealth with illegal aliens," Fitial added.

He said this is the reason why the CNMI asked CBP to provide the advanced passenger information system, APIS, so that the CNMI, using and sharing its border management system with CBP, might identify illegal aliens promptly and refer them to ICE for institution of removal proceedings.

Fitial said DHS' refusal to supply the APIS data to the CNMI is "difficult to understand."

He said the CNMI wants to have the APIS data in a timely fashion so that it can reduce the burdens placed on its tourists and manage its own labor laws effectively.

No one deported

Fitial also said although ICE has been

provided with identification information regarding over 1,300 illegal aliens currently in the CNMI, together with a certification by the deputy secretary of Labor as to the illegal status of each of these individuals, very few removal proceedings have been initiated.

David Gootnick, director of the U.S. Government Accountability Office's international affairs and trade, said in his testimony on Tuesday that ICE officials had processed 72 of 264 aliens for removal proceedings.

As of March 1, 2010, ICE had not deported any of the 72 aliens being processed for removal but that 31 were set for immigration hearings.

Fitial, in his testimony, said ICE's resources and procedures used in the removal cases are "insufficient to deal with the number of illegal aliens in the Commonwealth."

He said ICE needs to increase its capacity to schedule and complete immigration hearings to make any significant impact on the growing backlog of cases.

"A single judge coming out to Saipan for one week every month cannot handle this volume of cases," he added.

Fitial also said unless steps are taken, it is virtually certain that the CNMI's backlog will simply be added to the estimated 228,421 pending immigration cases nationwide as of Oct. 1, 2009, up 23 percent since the end of Fiscal Year 2008.

He said in Los Angeles, the office with responsibility for the CNMI, the average wait for a hearing in the federal immigration courts is 713 days, compared with the national average of 439 days.

The Commonwealth needs the assistance of this Subcommittee in addressing this situation so that the department provides the necessary resources to reduce the number of illegal aliens in the CNMI," Fitial added.

The Subcommittee said at the end of the hearing that there's greater need for cooperation between the CNMI and DHS.

GAO also recommended the same, in its May 2010 report titled "CNMI: DHS should conclude negotiations and finalize regulations to implement federal immigration law."

TUDELA

From Page 1

had nothing to do with his decision to terminate him.

"His contract calls for removal with cause or without cause. There is a no need for a reason. I just relieved him as deputy commissioner and served him his termination letter," Tudela said.

He said Ogunoro was terminated not only as deputy commissioner but also as DPS range master.

Tudela said he called Ogunoro to his office and told him he's serving him his notice of termination.

"He asked what's the reason. I said there is no need for me to explain the reason. It's in the contract," Tudela said.

Tudela said he has not informed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yet about the termination, but that he has already told acting Gov. Eloy Inos about it. Fitial is off-island.

"I don't need a deputy commissioner at this time. I am more comfortable if I run the department without a deputy," he said.

Sources said Tudela does not like the way Ogunoro ran the department such as reassigning people without informing him and allegedly shouting at officers, among other things.

Ogunoro had a run-in with the DEA last Wednesday after DEA agents took custody of a Tinian police officer and two other men who were arrested by a joint DEA-Tinian police after a meth buy-bust operation.

Ogunoro, who appeared upset, was

AUDIT

From Page 1

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos, when asked for comment, said lack of funding snagged the hiring of an independent team of management analysts to conduct a long-overdue desk audit, which he said would result in an efficient government.

He said the actual desk audit began on Monday.

"Since the governor's first inauguration, that was his promise—that he would do everything and anything to make this government more efficient. Apparently, it has taken four years because of funding situation...but we're just glad to actually do it," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Under the desk audit, DPS and DCCA positions will be reviewed, including individual duties and responsibilities.

A job audit may reveal both inefficiencies and under-utilized resources in the government. It may also identify problems such as excessive salaries, the filling of redundant or obsolete positions, and general staffing inefficiencies in government.

But Inos said due to funding limitation, the Fitial administration will only be able to initially cover DPS and DCCA in the desk audit. He said more agencies will be audited when additional funds become available.

The money used to pay for the contractor came from a U.S. Department of the Interior technical assistance grant, he said.

"This is going to be the start of essentially a complete review of the entire government... The idea is not to reduce, but to be more efficient in [providing] public services," Inos added.

The Fitial administration expects to

seen talking to DEA's Marquez for a few minutes outside the main entrance of Horiguchi Building in Garapan.

After his conversation with Marquez, Ogunoro told *Saipan Tribune* he does not need the DEA. "Mr. Marquez thinks he can come in and push people around," he said.

He also accused a Tinian officer, who later came out of the Horiguchi Building, of betraying DPS and violating Gov. Fitial's order by leaking information to the DEA. Ogunoro threatened the officer with sanction.

"That officer is subject to reassignment. He betrayed DPS. He will be identified. I know the name," he said.

He also branded Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and Tinian DPS resident director Rey Pangelinan as incompetents.

At his afternoon press conference, Ogunoro identified the arrested persons as Tinian police officer Gilbert Macaranas, Henry San Nicolas, and Carlos Aldan. He also reiterated his dislike for Marquez and the DEA, accusing the federal agency of using DPS and taking credit for each successful operation.

Tudela tapped Ogunoro to be his deputy in February, concurrent to his position as the CNMI range master. Tudela delegated to Ogunoro the operational and administrative functions of the department.

Under Ogunoro's short command, police officers were active in the campaign against illegal drugs and burglary cases. Many officers were also fielded to go after reckless and drunk drivers, and speeding motorists.

have a report from the contractor by September 2010.

Isidro K. Seman, director of the Office of Personnel Management, separately said yesterday that OPM is assisting the contractor, Management Analysis Inc., in the desk audit.

Seman said this is a good time for conducting a desk audit, given the government's financial problems and the need for efficiency.

"Although we'd like to have an audit for the entire government, we don't have much money," he said.

The company that landed the contract, Management Analysis Inc., has Arthur Smith as its president and Sergio Loya as project manager.

Last year, the Fitial administration said a desk audit had been planned for DPS and the Department of Public Health.

When police officers held a peaceful protest on Oct. 26, 2009 at the Legislature and the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill, they demanded promotions and pay increases. At the time, Inos said a desk audit, which is critical in evaluating pay increases and promotions, has been on the drawing board long before the police officers staged the peaceful protest.

At the time, Inos said it's unfortunate there's only \$300,000 in grant money available, while the proposal submitted exceeded \$1 million. Thus, instead of a government-wide desk audit, the government will have the desk audit for one or two departments at a time.

The last time a government-wide desk audit was made was in the early '90s. This resulted in the enactment of Public Law 7-31 or the Commonwealth Compensation Adjustment and Salary Act of 1991, implementing across-the-board salary adjustments for government workers.

CHC to lose doctor; four new contracts signed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another physician is set to leave the Commonwealth Health Center, in yet another blow to the hospital's efforts to retain doctors.

Saipan Tribune learned that Dr. George Macris, an Internal Medicine physician, has been called to serve the military. He is a reservist and would soon take a leave from his hospital job.

The Internal Medicine section needs a minimum of four doctors; the hospital has three at the moment. Macris' departure would leave it with just two doctors.

Besides Internal Medicine, the hospital's Pediatric Section is also short of the minimum three doctors required.

Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez declined to comment, however, on the shortage of doctors when asked during Tuesday's Nursing Week proclamation, saying he is not aware of the current number of doctors

at CHC and the upcoming leave of one of its physicians.

"I don't know the number now...but we're always recruiting," Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the current count of doctors is enough for the hospital's needs.

Villagomez disclosed that he had just signed four contracts for physicians who would soon start working in the hospital.

"I just signed four new contracts. I don't know exactly when they are coming in but these doctors will be for Pediatrics and Internal Medicine," he said.

Villagomez also declined to comment on claims that some patients were turned away from the hospital due to the unavailability of doctors, promising to respond to these inquiries later. He has not responded to follow-up e-mails and calls as of press time.

Villagomez admitted that, although he wants to provide salary adjustments and reclassification for deserving employees, this would not happen this year

or next fiscal year because the department is budgeted at just \$32.4 million.

"Eventually, we would really have to look at the salary of our employees. But because our economy is in a downturn, I also have to look for the means to pay for that...but right now, we cannot afford to do it," he said.

The exodus of doctors and nurses from CHC is being blamed on unattractive salaries compared to other regions and states.

The CNMI has a \$50,000 salary cap for all government employees. In the case of physicians, the DPH secretary can ask the governor and the Legislature for exemptions so doctors could be paid higher salaries.



Villagomez

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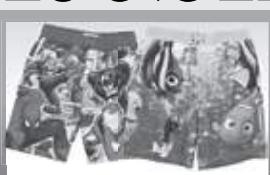
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NMI to host 13th Chief Executives' summit in June

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By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI will be hosting the 13th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit set for June 16 to 18, but press secretary Angel Demapan said the venue has yet to be confirmed as of yesterday.

The summit will bring together once again the presidents of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, as well as the governors of the CNMI, Guam, Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Chuuk, to discuss common issues of concern in the region.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial named Special Assistant for Administration Esther S. Fleming as chairperson for the Organizational Committee, Demapan said.

Fleming is working with the chiefs of staff for each of the Micronesian heads of state to ensure

that each jurisdiction's concerns will be adequately addressed at the upcoming summit.

The Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit aims to consult on issues of mutual concern, such as challenges involving the regional and international economy, the environment, regional response to the military buildup, U.S. federal policies, and labor and immigration.

The summit resulted in the adoption of regional programs of action in the focal areas of solid waste management, conservation through the Micronesia Challenge and related environmental programs, renewable energy, invasive species, health, transportation, workforce investment and tourism.

The 12th summit was held in Guam on Dec. 3 and 4, 2009, and the 11th summit was held in Majuro in the Marshall Islands in July 2009.

Hotel sues regional baseball tourney organizers for non-payment of \$40K

services.

Asia Pacific Hotels Inc. sued Ada, the committee, and five unnamed co-defendants, for breach of contract and unjust enrichment.

The hotel, through counsel Steven P. Pixley, asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay damages and interest.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get comments from Ada.

The CNMI hosted the Asia-Pacific Little League Championship between June 26, 2008 and July 7, 2008. The participants included teams from the Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Guam.

The committee was responsible for organizing the baseball games. It also assisted the various teams participating in the baseball championship.

Pixley stated in the complaint that, on March 21, 2008, Ada and other committee members met with representatives of the Saipan Grand Hotel to discuss hotel accommodations, including meals and ground transportation, for about 200 players, coaches, officials, and other individuals involved in the tournament.

On April 23, 2008, the hotel made an offer to Ada and committee members for hotel services.

"This quotation included a reduction of \$10,000 representing a contribution from Tan Holdings Foundation to support the baseball tournament. This offer was accepted by the committee," the lawyer said.

Pixley said the committee collected cash payments from the teams that participated in the tournament and the money was expressly designed as payment for the hotel services provided by the Saipan Grand Hotel.

"These payments, however, were not used by the committee to pay for the hotel services," he said.

Pixley said the defendants used the collected funds for unknown purposes and failed to pay the hotel. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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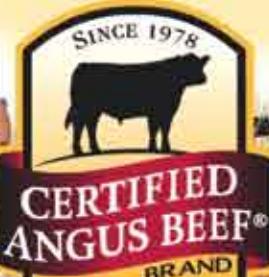
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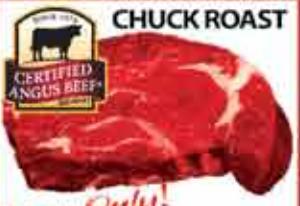
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Apology letter-writer gets 30 days for theft

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court imposed a 30-day prison term on an alien worker who stole money from his employer several times, but would just write letters of apology whenever he was caught.

Associate Judge Perry Inos on Wednesday also ordered Isidro C. Doctolero to make another apology letter to the victim.

Inos sentenced Doctolero to five years in prison, all suspended except for 30 days, for theft. The judge gave him credit for the 22 days he has

already spent in jail.

Doctolero was ordered to start serving the eight remaining days of his sentence starting Monday, May 24, at 6pm.

After serving his sentence, Doctolero will be placed on probation.

The judge ordered Doctolero to pay the victim, Jong Myung Kim, in the amount of \$4,877.76. Inos said failure to make timely payments to Kim may result in revocation proceedings.

Kim owns M&H Corp., a commercial building, renting out office spaces and rooms for rent. He is also a part-owner of two other businesses.

"[Doctolero] shall not depart the Commonwealth until restitution is paid in full," said the judge.

Doctolero was also ordered to perform 100 hours of community service, and pay all court costs and probation fees.

He is barred from consuming or possessing any alcoholic beverages during the term of his probation and was required to undergo any recommended counseling at the Community Guidance Center.

Doctolero, represented by assistant public defender Michael Brown, signed a plea agreement with the government. He plead-

ed guilty to theft.

Assistant attorney general Eli Golob appeared for the government.

According to the plea agreement, Doctolero stole \$4,078.76 from Kim on June 6, 2009.

Police said Doctolero first stole over \$1,000 in November 2008 and when caught, wrote a letter of apology, to Kim. Kim forgave Doctolero, who paid the amount in installments.

Police said Doctolero, however, stole more money several times and when caught, would write letters of apology to Kim.

Kim showed police Doctolero's six letters of apology.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 21, 1999

Murkowski wants delay in CIP funds

In an apparent major shift, Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) now wants delay in the funding of capital improvement projects for the Northern Marianas, instead of cutting the federal grants as proposed under President Clinton's budget for Fiscal Year 2000. The senator, who chairs the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources which deals with island issues, said the Commonwealth should not be punished for its failure to meet the matching requirement for CIP funds. "To the extent that the CNMI is unable to obligate the \$11 million scheduled for next fiscal year and there are more immediate needs in other island, I would support deferring (not repealing) construction funding until the CNMI can provide the necessary local match," he said.

Special Ed toughens rules for guns in campus

Under the amended version of the Individual's with Disabilities Education Act, school principals are allowed to remove a special education student from their campuses if a child brought a gun to school. The temporary removal will also cover students caught with dangerous weapons and illegal drugs, as well as those peddling controlled substance. However, if there was no pattern of rules violation established by the student in question, principals are only allowed to keep them away from the school premises for 10 days. In addition, if a violation was committed as a manifestation of disability, the student should not be subject to long-term suspension or expulsion.

May 21, 2001

CDA hopes to close more housing loans

The CNMI may see a burst of growth in the construction sector as the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation expects to close at least 1,000 housing loans by the end of the year. Development Authority Board Chair John S. Tenorio disclosed that NMHC has approved roughly about 700 housing loans within the last two and a half years and intends to close a thousand loans by year-end. Mr. Tenorio said the significant increase in last year's real estate loans from commercial banks and CDA was fueled by a bigger demand for home refinancing because of the lower interest rates.

Deeper inspection of Kagman school advised

The Public School System was advised to map out effective action plan to reduce high maintenance cost and to replace substandard materials used in the construction of the newly-built Kagman Elementary School. Noted engineering and construction firm EFC recommended complete inspection of all facilities and entire premises of the \$6 million Kagman school to ascertain the as-built condition of the school. In a letter to Rep. Thomas B. Pangilinan, EFC President Efrain F. Camacho disclosed that PSS should immediately act on various areas of concerns to determine what can be done to minimize future maintenance cost of Kagman school.

May 21, 2002

New facility for kids with special needs

A first-of-its-kind facility dedicated to the needs of children with disabilities has sprung to life at the former Chalan Kanoa Headstart Center through a partnership between the Public School System Special Education Program and the Saipan, Tinian and Rota Parents Organization. Both agencies celebrated yesterday their successful tie-up in a gathering that officially unveiled the newly-renovated structure, dubbed as the Parents-Teachers Training Center, located south of the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. The venue has been designed for parents and teachers, a place where they can receive training and create materials that will support the educational needs of individual students.

CPA gets \$700K fire truck from FAA

The Federal Aviation Administration awarded the Commonwealth Ports Authority with a \$700,000-firetruck, which is hoped to enhance the emergency response ability of its Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Division. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday said the firetruck, which has a capability to hold 3,000 gallons of water, arrived Friday from Osh Kosh, Wisconsin. Salas said the truck - approved and released through an FAA grant - would supplement the existing fleet currently used by its aircraft rescue and firefighting unit. "This would enhance the ability of the ARFF to respond to emergency cases and would supplement what we already have. This is a high-tech truck that can be operated through a computer," Salas said.

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Judge: Labor's inefficiency in processing claims a sad reality

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"It is a sad reality that the Department of Labor does not function more efficiently in the processing of labor claims."

This "sad reality" prompted Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman to reverse the Labor Secretary's decision denying the claim for liquidated damages filed by five former employees of Misamis Corp.

Wiseman said the workers—Nur Hossain, Kumar Pradip, Amzad Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, and Melquides Balasoto—are in no way to blame for the Labor's shortcomings in this regard.

Misamis had argued that the seven-and-a-half-year delay in getting this matter to a hearing prejudiced the company since it was unable to locate some records.

"However, the court finds that [Misamis] did provide its records to [Labor] back in 2000 when these cases were first filed," Wiseman said in the order issued Wednesday.

Misamis therefore cannot claim that it was prejudiced by the delay since it had already provided those records to Labor, the judge said.

The five ex-Misamis employees first complained to Labor that the company owes them unpaid wages in 1999 and 2000.

These complaints remained

inactive until Oct. 31, 2007, when Labor conducted administrative hearings. On Nov. 6, 2007, all five were awarded back wages and four of the five were awarded liquidated damages.

Misamis appealed the decision to the Labor Secretary, who affirmed the award for back wages but reversed the liquidated damage award, saying the five were not entitled to liquidate damages because Labor had consolidated their claims into one case.

The Secretary said liquidated damages are usually awarded in individual cases brought by individual employees, rather than in consolidated cases brought by Labor.

The workers, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, disagreed and argued that the Secretary's order was factually incorrect.

In his order, Wiseman said liquidated damages are intended to compensate an unpaid worker for the actual—but difficult-to-quantify—consequential damages resulting from nonpayment.

The judge said the law makes the award of liquidated damages mandatory, whether or not Labor sought such an award.

Wiseman said each petitioner filed his or her own labor claim against Misamis, seeking liquidated damages before being consolidated into one case by Labor.

"Since these claims were filed by each individual petitioner and

each individual petitioner appeared at the hearing to testify, this shows that petitioners sustained the time and expenses of prosecuting the case and leans in favor of awarding petitioners liquidated damages," he said.

More importantly, the judge said, the burden is on the hearing

officer to award damages to the prevailing worker if an award of unpaid wages is made to him.

"In this case, all petitioners were awarded unpaid wages. Therefore, the denial of liquidated damages to petitioners, each of whom was awarded

unpaid wages, were erroneous," he pointed out.

As to the issue of Labor's failure to conduct an investigation, Misamis argued that Labor's unexplained failure denied it the opportunity to develop evidence and to have a fair hearing relating to the al-

leged illegal employment.

The five claimed that Misamis raised this allegation against only one of the five, Amzad Hossain, and the allegation is irrelevant since Hossain was allegedly working illegally only after he left Misamis.

Wiseman determined that although Labor failed to investigate this, its failure does not diminish Misamis Corp.'s liability.

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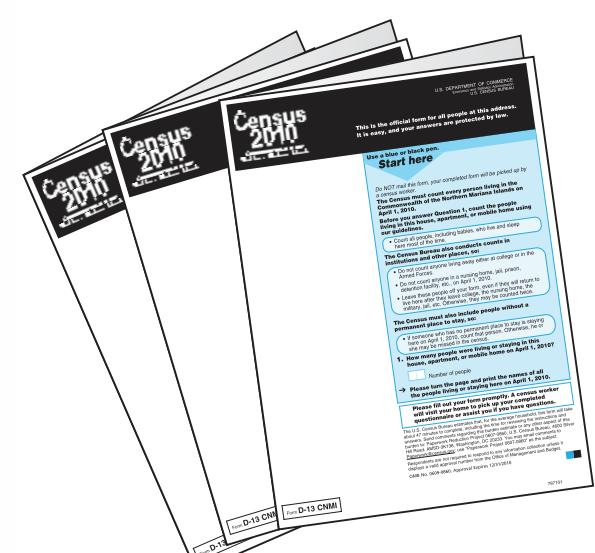
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Opinion

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IN A NUTSHELL

A brief look at sovereignty, the Covenant, self-government, and the economy

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the Saipan Tribune



William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

Last of a five-part series

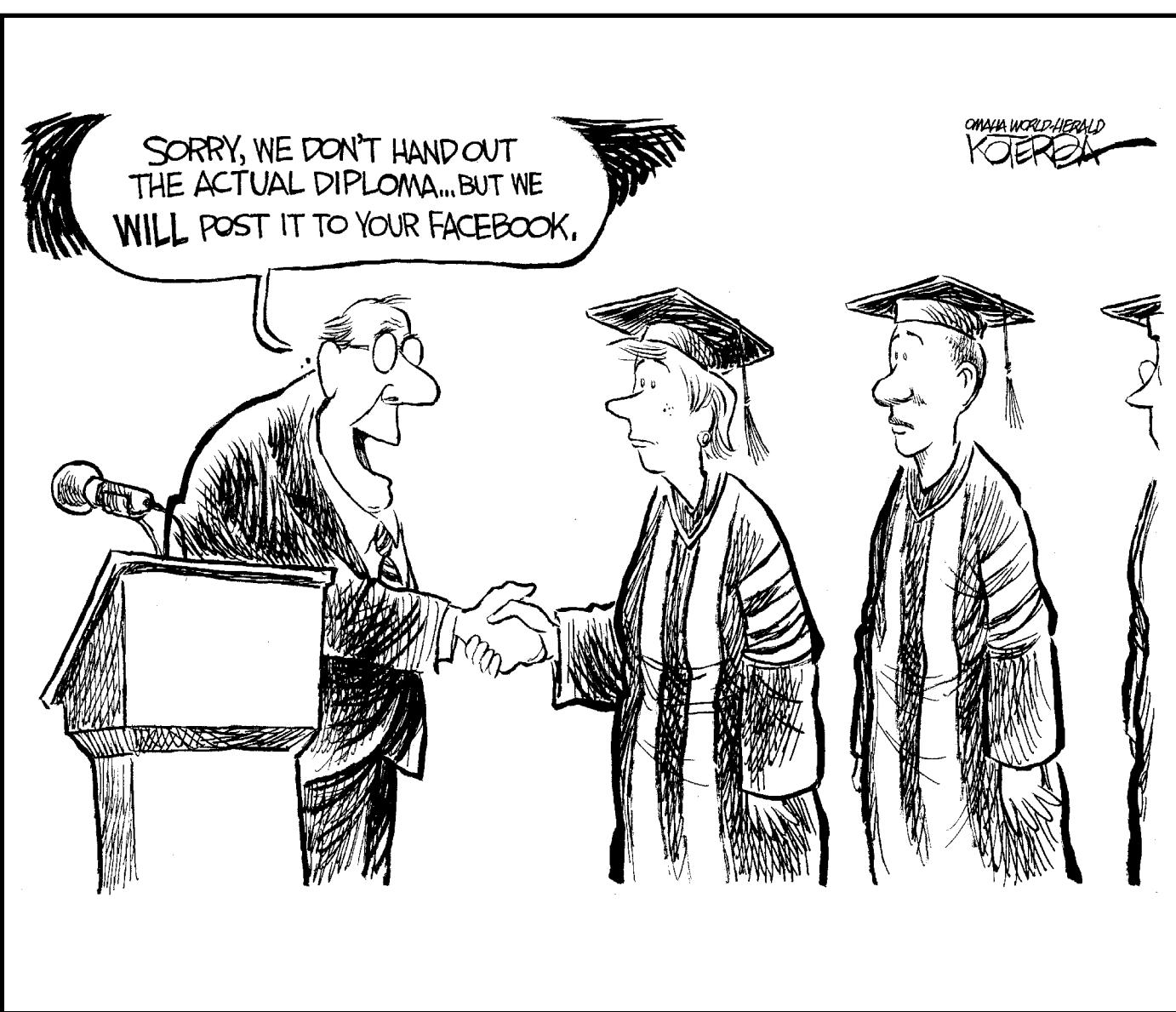
It is certainly no secret to anyone who has considered ways to turn the Commonwealth's economy around that the economic activity that offers the greatest potential is tourism with the exploitation of marine resources second.

Could it be some in the NMI still don't get it? They just don't seem to understand that the islands' principal market is the Japanese and these people are among the most fastidious, and demanding market in the world? Ask yourself why would some of the more discriminating Japanese want to visit a destination where the beaches are often exposed to pollution; where tourists have been robbed; where there are few attractions other than those provided by a marine environment; where prices are high—and on top of it all that, they are cautioned not to drink the water. If the island's piped water is contaminated and thus not potable, connect the dots and consider that in many instances this same water is used for washing restaurant dishes in small businesses outside the major hotels, which do maintain high standards of hygiene. Again, follow the trail that leads to lack of sanitation that often leads to illness, all of which combined can influence an area's reputation and can result in declining interest in the destination largely as a result of word-of-mouth adverse publicity. Poor water quality also results in added expense to CHC and by extension the pockets of local taxpayers.

Do I think that Saipan's poor water quality is responsible for the decline in the tourist sector? Certainly not. However, I do believe it is symptomatic or indicative of an overall, general malaise that has been prevalent on the islands for far too long, which has contributed to the decline in the tourism sector and that trend is the government's long-term failure to look after its own "economic store," namely its tax base and the essential infrastructure to support that base.

I'm not aware that Guam has experienced similar problems with their water supply. Could the lack of money in the NMI be the cause for inadequate power and water? Let's examine that thought and afterward return to the benefits resulting from the Covenant

But first consider. During the period 1986 to 2004 the CNMI government's internally generated revenue was \$3.07 billion. Friends, that's one million dollars multiplied more than 3,000 times. During this period the total expenditures on capital improvement projects in the Commonwealth as generated by their own internal revenue sources was a meager 3.2 percent (\$78.4



million). Over the above period, other government expenditures were wages and salaries \$1.6 billion (64 percent) and all other expenditures of \$807.5 million (32.8 percent). The vast majority of the total expenditures made on capital improvement infrastructure projects resulted not from locally generated revenues but largely as a result of more than 25 years of U.S. financial assistance in the form of program grants. The CNMI's locally generated revenue has been largely directed toward supporting an increased payroll as everyone knows.

Add to the above local revenue the sum of more than one half billion dollars in Covenant funds plus the multi-millions provided by the U.S. government in the form of a myriad of program grants ranging from road, air and seaport improvements, hospital and medical facilities, etc., and one might legitimately pose the question: What

What went wrong that one can't drink the water from the public system? Is to be the metaphor to describe the results of self-government? The legacy of 25 years of governance for the public? Someone please write it on the wall.

went wrong that one can't drink the water from the public system? Is to be the metaphor to describe the results of self-government? The legacy of 25 years of governance for the public? Someone please write it on the wall.

If there was ever truth in the old expression the "chickens have come home to roost" it is certainly applicable to the NMI and its long-time, inexcusable neglect in providing reliable power and potable water necessary to assist the critical tourism component of the economy.

And here's another personal observation from one who is basically an adherent to the philosophy of *laissez faire* (For those unfamiliar with the term it essentially means that government should maintain "hands off" and let the private sector prevail). If you doubt this please drive out to San Roque and with despair look at the tragic condition of the once beautiful shopping mall under government

ownership. (Note: See *Tribune* archives of Feb. 9, 2009 for the article: "Telling it like it is: What a Shame!").

With too few exceptions, many local people who should have been introduced or otherwise encouraged to become entrepreneurs or merchants within the tourist sector did not rise to take advantage of the many opportunities at the time of the economic boom. For whatever reason, many remained nonparticipants for too long. Even to the extent of permitting large numbers of non-U.S. citizens (non-voters) to take over the smaller, low investment, "mom and pop" neighborhood stores, gift shops and other small, minimum investment, "entry-type" businesses. I have often wondered if the non-participation of so many local people in business and their apparent indifference to the infrastructure deficiency so vital to a dynamic economy resulted in a smaller indigenous constituency to actively advocate, sympathize and support the needs of private business and strongly voice this concern within the halls of government where infrastructure requirements should be realized, planned and adequately budgeted.

There are certainly many astute Chamorro and Carolinian business men and women active in the economy and a great many are my long time friends and acquaintances, and I certainly don't mean to disparage their valuable contribution over the years. I'm simply saying there should have been more of them and fewer nonresident workers that are currently the subject of concern to both U.S. immigration and the NMI administration.

In my judgment the smaller "mom and pop" businesses should have been reserved for the time when local people were sufficiently motivated to take the risk and step forward to implement the activity. Granted, a few years ago such a trade-off would have had to be accepted and that acceptance being no less than foregoing the tax revenue such small, foreign-owned businesses would normally generate until such time as a U.S. citizen was willing to accept the risk associated with any business investment and start their own enterprise. This now largely absent locally owned "small" business constituency of informed voters might have made a difference many years ago in pressuring the government to keep its eye on the economic ball and the infrastructure needed to sustain the economy. Of course, there were—and still are—prominent local voices in the indigenous business community that have sounded the alarm—and still do—but there is strength in numbers and the more owners of small businesses that join the effort the better.

Returning to the issue of local ownership, no one can argue that one of the pleasures of travel is the interaction with local people within the visitor's destination area. At the present in the NMI a tourist rarely encounters even a small tourist business operated by a Chamorro or Carolinian. The friendly ESCO store on Capital Hill is

See A BRIEF on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Risks and swans

When Saipan's Brain Drain followed the loss of faith in the CNMI economy, which seems like just yesterday but was nigh almost a dozen years ago, I dubbed the fleeing professionals the "Suitcase Squad." In these ranks a much-discussed issue was whether the Philippines, or, by contrast, Thailand, offered the best new venue for someone determined to stay in the tropics.

One thing's for sure: Some of Saipan's best professional talent went to both nations, and my humble column is, all these years later, followed by Suitcase Squad members in Thailand and the Philippines. I'm enthralled with both nations, but I had always assumed, entirely incorrectly as it turns out, that Thailand wasn't a likely candidate for seriously martial turmoil, at least not on the scale of what's in the headlines now.

Yikes. Well, I profess no expertise in Thai affairs, and offer no comments on them, other than to say that when Bangkok is burning, it's fodder for international headlines. I don't know what is going to happen over there; I have absolutely no idea.

But taking a bigger view of things, it's yet another nagging reminder of the "Black Swan" effect, a term popularized by mathematician and writer Nassim Taleb. Black Swan refers to a surprising event, an outlier from the expected set of probabilities.

Taleb grew up in Lebanon, which was famously peaceful and prosperous until it was wracked by civil war that seemed to boil up out of nowhere, so, as Taleb hid in the basement from falling mortar rounds, he had an early appreciation of how unexpected

events can broadside you.

As Taleb notes in his bestselling book, *The Black Swan*, "History does not crawl, it jumps."

In less than elegant terms, "Stuff Happens."

Although you can't foresee the Black Swans in life, you can try to keep your affairs on an even keel the better to ride out rogue waves. Some folks, especially expats who have seen stable places go unstable, or viable economies turn un-viable, would rather have two small homes in two different nations, than one big one somewhere that would leave them fully exposed to risk there. Or, if they can't afford two homes, they at least maintain some sort of active engagement and associations in a couple of places.

One thing I noticed when I first moved to Saipan was that the smartest guys never, ever, sat still, and they all had projects going in places outside of the CNMI. On one hand, it took a lot of energy, and even money, to spread themselves around like that. On the other hand, I'm not suggesting that Saipan's economic fall was a Black Swan; it was, by contrast, entirely foreseeable, and I warned about it many times in this column. Still, I noticed the savvy set had an instinctive appreciation for the fact that things could turn sour, here or anywhere else, which just made them all the more prepared for any changes, be they foreseeable or otherwise.

That's certainly not the only way to approach things, though. A lot of people leaped to Saipan to escape the rat race, and as long as they earned enough to get by, they were content to enjoy a laid-back

lifestyle. Such is the tropical dream, after all.

But the problem with this dream is that its viability depends on your ability to foresee the future. It can be a conceptual trap, in which peace of mind is rooted in making unrealistic extrapolations about the status quo. When people feel entitled to peace of mind, they can get hostile to any data that contradicts their sanguine assumptions. I think this accounts for a lot of the contentious tone in the CNMI's affairs, as those who tied their financial futures to the CNMI bureaucracy were unable to see beyond it. That's not a Black Swan issue, and it serves to illustrate why even obvious risk often goes totally ignored.

Which leads us back to the fact that some risks are foreseeable, some are a bit murkier but can be at least conceptually accounted for, and some, the Black Swans, are pretty much out of nowhere and can really zap you when you least expect it. That's just the way it is.



By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Marry in May, Wed on Wednesday, and D in December

The merry month of May this year seems to be a propitious time to marry in the Year of the Tiger. In China this May, there was not a day when the dragon was not disturbed by the noisy dancing of red splattering firecrackers for a wedding banquet.

Wednesday's child Melissa may not be full of woe but she became Andrew Engstrom's waffle wedded wife on YouTube when the groom could not get his vows straight and waffled *lawful wedded wife* into a "pancakey" breakfast item that got Melissa bent and unstoppably howling. Evidently, a button, perhaps, with a very significant existential grounding, was pushed and the only thing the officiating parson could do to conclude the ceremony was to take a break until the bride could get over her gargantuan giggles.

Many of our Saipan resort hotels have outdoor chapels where weddings are held, but mostly for the tourists to enjoy sunset photo ops that are endearing to brides while the grooms sweat it out in rented tux and tails in the tropics. True to the times and terrain, fanciful high-end consumers also share their bubbly in an elongated Humvee that takes them to the inland sights (a safari adventure to the boonies) and the nightlife lights (obviously, a short one) rather than in the long hound-dog-like limousines of old.

Wedding photos have become a symbol of upscale living in many places, with the matte pictures unabashedly displayed in living and dining rooms of new homes in construction-bubble China. A recent tightening of loans in China had caught the headlines because it limits a couples' creditability to purchase a second dwelling for investment purposes. Some couples have opted to remain functionally domesticated but formally divorced so that each can avail of more loans to invest in new housing units. Unfortunately, for some whose romance after six months ebbed with the tide after, taking the commercial advantage by divorcing had been conveniently kept operationally real and permanent in time.

An enterprising photographer packaged a pre-nuptials-to-first-child series of family pictures. These include dating photos to the wedding gowns (all studio lent) and family group pictures of both

sides of the new creation on the festive day, through pregnancy (Demi Moore and Claudia Schiffer could do it *au naturel* in the covers of *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue* magazines, he says), and the birth of the first born (still encouraged to remain an only one per family in China), all tastefully done. Advocates of family stability also find this arrangement attractive since the family stays together for the desired offspring. (A pro-rated refund is offered if a child does not ensue after three years!)

I had this funny dream after the DOI released its recommendations regarding the status of resident aliens in the CNMI. Leaders within the Unity Movement are encouraging indigenes who married alien workers to come out in the open in support of their spouses, to back DOI and let Congress know that a swift action on it would hasten legal residency and citizenship.

Knowing Uncle Ben to be a man who leads by example and having married a former nonresident alien, I had him promoting the same method to his colleagues in my dream. *Tirow* (begging your pardon, or with due respect), *bwi-bwi*, (brothers and sisters), he addresses his gathered supporters, *Pamela, Tony and the rest of the Feds, want to play games with our lives, so we will humor them and have fun in the process; let us play.* (It's my dream, neh, so I get to decide dialogue and seating arrangement.) Ben encouraged everyone who was able, at least, legally, to take the favored alien of their choice before a duly constituted authority who can solemnize a union (skip the priest so as not to jeopardize outstanding reservations at Hotel San Pedro), and get the guest to properly and recognizably pronounce, *I do. Let's get this transition show on the road, at least, in our terms*, he added with his signature impish grin. (Most of my Carolinian friends are sympathetic to the Unity Movement intents; they just take exception to the perceived abrasiveness of how it is being done! *Not on my back, you don't*, one said.)

The menfolk were eager to comply, but there was a shortage of ladies to handle the men. (In a matrilineal flow of inheritance, highly regarded Carolinian females have the last say, but they do so un-

obtrusively and gracefully in the clan meeting.) There was also the damper of the celebrated female cases of bigamy for fee in recent years. But an enterprising college student (not a few contractual arrangements were made before heading out with scholarships to college, reputedly at \$3K per to the charity of the groom's choice) thought of getting in touch with buddies who had moved to Washington, Oregon and Nevada to see if diehard female gaming pros would want to take a free vacation to Tinian, bring their passports and divorce decree papers, have fun and return with a few crisp Franklins in their overnights, along with a fabulous tan.

Yeah, the dream was cut short as the sun came in early in a room no longer aircon-equipped, thanks to CUC's costs, but the ending was strictly Hollywood. All Saipan residents were legit, no more court cases, Howard and Deanne returned to Georgetown fulfilled. Planeloads of the newly documented swiftly headed for L. A. and NYC to staff machines for couturier-designed outfits. Food stamp applications rose but the Feds were just too happy to accommodate. Drove of Russian and Chinese tourists were arriving in an orderly fashion, all papers above board, or above the counter as it were, and Uncle Ben's legacy was assured. No one questioned MVA's budget anymore. Everyone lived happily ever after!

As Socrates allegedly said: *By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.* Or an OpEd page writer. Will solemnize a May wedding for free, anyone?



By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

often said: "Billy, you can catch more flies with honey than you can with vitriol and vinegar."

As I may have mentioned before the NMI has a lot of potential but has been falling far short of achieving its full potential. The islands are beautiful and the people are great. These are tremendous assets. In my humble judgment two things must be appreciated for the area to start on the road to recovery: (1) politicians must acknowledge the fact that economic development is not their field of expertise and (2) accept the advice of local business leaders and development experts, follow that advice and get out of their way and let them do the job.

If nothing else would serve to prove my point the three winning essays prepared for the Attorney General's Cup, a high school speech context of which the winning essays were published in April and May entitled: "What Went Wrong?" will do very nicely. If you haven't read these outstanding essays, I highly recommend them.

A BRIEF

From Page 10

only one of the few that comes to mind. Recall it was featured in a tourism promotion on cable TV and now I understand ESCO's doors are closed.

I want to make it abundantly clear that I certainly do not advocate a purge of the small foreign-owned businesses; that would be truly stupid and cause irreparable harm to the island's investment reputation. I do suggest, however, that some form of mechanism be put in place to encourage increased local participation in business when better days once again return—which I am confident will happen. This should be given serious thought if one wants to keep young people at home.

I suspect part of the reason so few local people have taken up the rewarding challenge of owning and operating their own busi-

ness is partly a result of geographic isolation which has served to limit economic exposure. For this reason many local people have been confined to the islands without the benefit of travel to other tourist destinations with the result that many have nothing to compare Saipan with another successful tourist destinations such as Hawaii, Bermuda, Bahamas, the Greek Islands, etc.

Many within the local community who elect government officials to represent them simply either don't know—or have limited vision—as to what an island tourist destination could and should be.

In any case, no one ever said it's a perfect world. If some of the constraints to additional investment in the tourist sector are to be overcome, or mitigated, at least the starting point should be that they be recognized and the provision for adequate and reliable water and power is a starting point. Another might be to work with the U.S. government in an environment of cooperation rather than recalcitrance. As my dear sweet granny so

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 89° ▾ 79°

SATURDAY

▲ 89° ▾ 79°

SUNDAY

▲ 89° ▾ 79°

MONDAY

▲ 89° ▾ 79°

TUESDAY

▲ 89° ▾ 79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▾ 79
Palau	Breezy	▲ 86 ▾ 77
Yap	Sunny	▲ 89 ▾ 77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲ 82 ▾ 77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 78
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲ 90 ▾ 79
Majuro	Rain	▲ 86 ▾ 79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▾ 57
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▾ 62
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▾ 72
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▾ 74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▾ 53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▾ 54
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 93 ▾ 79
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 60 ▾ 38
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▾ 76
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▾ 60
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 77 ▾ 62
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 73 ▾ 52
Pusan	Showers	▲ 68 ▾ 60
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 73 ▾ 55
Salem	Rain	▲ 52 ▾ 43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▾ 46
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▾ 58
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▾ 63
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▾ 66

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:01 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
8:09 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet
12:47 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.5 Feet
7:44 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	12:23 PM	12:17 AM
Saturday	1:20 PM	1:00 AM
Sunday	2:15 PM	1:42 AM
Monday	3:12 PM	2:24 AM
Tuesday	4:09 PM	3:08 AM

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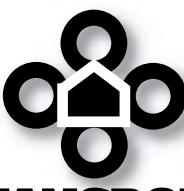
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Seven major areas of concern

Editor's Note: The following is the testimony of the author before the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife at the oversight hearing on the implementation of Public Law 110-229 in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

Madam chair and members of the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, it is a privilege to appear before you today to present testimony on "The Implementation of Public Law 110-229 to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam."

The following are areas of concern that have been raised by members of the public:

1 The area of greatest concern is the lack of regulations implementing the programs applicable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Although the transition date under Public Law 110-229 was November 28, 2009, the regulations have not been promulgated in respect to programs applicable only to the Commonwealth, temporary workers and investors. Without regulations in place, businesses are unable to plan for their future employment needs. Employers do not know how the foreign workers will be allocated among the employers and are uncertain as to the future availability of foreign workers.

2 The Commonwealth has a shortage of medical professionals. With the high demand for medical professional in the 50 States, it is difficult to recruit medical professionals. We could employ foreign trained professionals, however our hospital has been advised that medical doctors who have not passed the U.S. Medical Board Examinations are considered excludable aliens, and al-

though they may qualify for CNMI only worker status, they will be denied a visa by the State Department.

3 The establishment of prevailing wage rates by the Department of Labor has been delayed. Historically, wage rate data was available in respect to temporary alien workers. Wage rate data for non-alien employees has not been compiled. There is uncertainty as to the wages and other terms and conditions in respect to the employment of foreign workers.

4 There is a fundamental difference between the Commonwealth's prior immigration policies and the policies underlying the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The Commonwealth through its Constitution prohibited the granting of any permanent residence to aliens. One of the results of this prohibition was that temporary foreign workers were used to fill permanent employment needs. Under U.S. immigration laws, temporary foreign workers may only fill temporary employment needs. The Commonwealth does not have a sufficient permanent work force to meet the permanent employment needs. The problem is compounded by a significant amount of the permanent employment needs being for low-skilled positions that cannot be filled through employment-based permanent residency.

5 Applications for employment-based visas require a labor certification by the U.S. Department of Labor. In Guam, the labor certification function is performed by the Guam Department of Labor. Is it possible for the Commonwealth Department of Labor to become approved by the U.S. Department of Labor to perform the labor certification functions for employment in the Commonwealth?

6 The recent report by the Department of Interior recommends a more permanent status for foreign

**By FREDERICK P. DELEON
GUERRERO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero is a member of the 17th CNMI Legislature and chairman of the Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations.



workers who have been in the Commonwealth for 5 years or more. The report has caused confusion and misunderstandings in the community. A number of foreign workers have the misconception that an improved immigration status will in fact take place and have taken actions, which may jeopardize their eligibility for any U.S. immigration status. Some foreign workers believe that they need not comply with their existing employment contracts, breaching their contracts and engaging in unauthorized employment.

7 Since the regulations for the CNMI foreign worker program are not in effect, there has been little actual experience in filing applications for foreign worker permits. Employers are beginning to realize that the application process will not take place locally but will follow the same three-step process involving the U.S. Department of Labor, Department Homeland Security and the State Department. Once regulations are in place and employers begin processing applications, further problems are likely to surface relating to the implementation of Public Law 110-229.

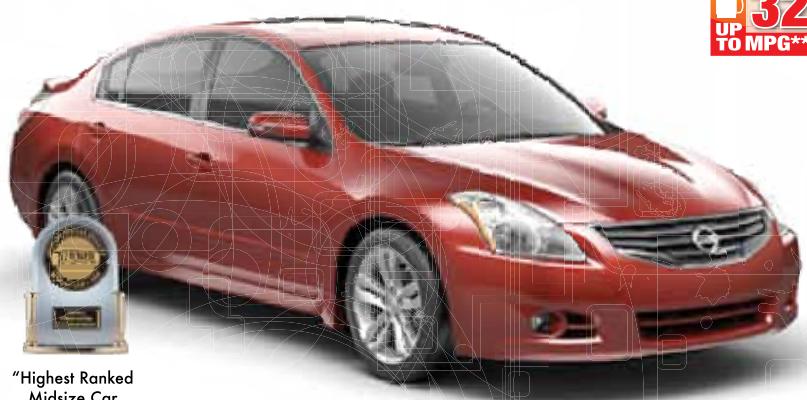
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Broken promises

Please reprint this letter to the editor that was written by my father, the late Justice Ramon Garrido Villagomez. This letter was published in 1998, 10 years before President George W. Bush signed PL 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008.

To the readers of my father's letter, please pay special attention to the nine promises the CNMI government made to the United States government in 1998. Not a single one of the promises was kept. These broken promises explain why the federal takeover was necessary and probably should have taken place a decade ago.

Also note how the CNMI government was fully aware in 1998 that allowing guest workers to become long-term residents without gaining the right to vote was immoral and unfair. If the situation was wrong then, logically it must be even worse 12 years onward.

Despite the latest protests that the federal government is violating our indigenous rights and self-determination, the fact remains that promises were made and promises were broken. There was a time when the CNMI's arguments for continued control of immigration had merit. That time has passed. It is now time to move the Commonwealth forward. Looking backwards is counterproductive.

The contract workers who have lived on Saipan more than five years have earned the right to petition for United States citizenship. I stand by my father's words and offer my support in helping the long toiling contract workers become the newest members of the American family.

Angelo O'Connor Villagomez

Winter Park, Florida

Dear Editor,

There is one important thing about limiting the length of stay for alien guest workers in the CNMI that has not been publicly discussed or explained. This letter will discuss and attempt to explain.

The Clinton administration has stated that it is against American democracy to have more than 50 percent of our population as guest workers who are unable to vote, politically powerless and are subjected to abuse. For this reason, the Administration is determined to amend the Covenant and apply the U.S. immigration laws. Under the U.S. immigration laws these guest workers could become eligible for U.S. citizenship.

Indeed, Mr. Al Stayman has told the Chamber of Commerce that when (not if) the U.S. immigration laws are made applicable, guest workers would be able to become U.S. citizens and be able to vote and run for office. When that happens, the number of non-Chamorro and non-Carolinian voters might soon become the majority of voters. As majority voters, they could remove from office all Chamorro and Carolinian senators, congresspersons, mayors, governor and so on and so forth. They could amend the Constitution and kill Article 12. When all these have occurred, what would happen to the self-government that the people of the CNMI negotiated and acquired for themselves under the Covenant, in the exercise of their right to self-determination?

Fortunately for the CNMI, Congress has indicated that if the CNMI leaders take appropriate action to control immigration and stop labor abuses, Congress would not give Clinton what he wants, but if the CNMI leaders do not act, Congress will. Even Congress

feels that the CNMI has let too many guest workers come in from too many foreign countries and have allowed some of them to stay too long. Many feel that the matter has gone out of control.

Now, the question for the CNMI leaders is, what can they do, locally, to control immigration and stop labor abuses? Some measures have been taken and other options are under consideration. These include: (1) putting a moratorium on the hiring of guest workers, (2) capping the number of guest workers in the garment industry and the size of that industry, (3) weeding out corruption in the labor and immigration offices, (4) prosecuting employers and closing down businesses who abuse guest workers, (5) prohibiting the number of guest workers from exceeding the number of U.S. citizens in the CNMI, (6) allowing guest workers to transfer from one occupation to another and from one employer to another, (7) allowing illegal aliens to become legal under the amnesty law, (8) expediting the deportation of illegal aliens, and (9) limiting the number of years that a guest worker may stay in the CNMI.

The main reason for limiting the length of stay for guest workers is to prevent them from becoming long-term (five years or more) residents without gaining the right to vote. This limitation would not just satisfy the U.S.' concerns, but would be fair to the guest workers because, no matter how long they stay in the CNMI, they would not be able to become voting citizens under the CNMI laws. The idea to not let guest workers become voting citizens was envisioned and agreed to in the Covenant.

In giving the CNMI control over immigration, the parties to

See BROKEN on Page 16



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No self-government yet

To this day, we Chamorros and Carolinians have never actually been free to really self-govern ourselves, since the Spanish administration who came and claimed the islands for Spain in honor of Queen Mariana of Austria and ruled our people henceforth then sold us to the Germans without ever consulting with our *Guelu' yan Guela'*—our ancient ancestors. Then the Japanese took control at the onset of World War I. Again, the League of Nations authorized the Japanese to mandate the Mariana Islands without

the natives' consent whatsoever. Shortly afterward, the Chamorros and some Carolinians were enslaved into hard labor.

And after World War II, when the U.S. won the war, our people became U.S. nationals by ward of conquest. Japan and the U.S. entered a peace treaty. Again, the natives did not have a say in this treaty. It was this time that the United Nations consented to have the U.S. administer the islands as trustee under a trusteeship agreement. Furthermore, U.S. negotiators manipulated our people into

signing the Covenant in English as the official language, knowing full well that the translation word-for-word cannot reflect the actual understanding in Chamorro to English. Interpretation of what is meant in Chamorro or Carolinian should have been used to reflect the actual understanding of the Covenant sections during the translation phase.

Most of our people at the time did not fully understand what *sovereign* entails. And so today, based on the Covenant, the U.S. is sovereign which means they

can superlegislate from Washington without our say. Our delegate cannot even vote in the full floor of the U.S. Congress, which is legislating policies that affects our lives some 6,000 miles away. With a stroke of a pen, a federal law just like the CNRA is made applicable to the NMI without our say. What kind of U.S. citizens are we if we cannot even vote for the president of the United States. Second-class?

U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2009, Section 711

allows the CNMI to have a non-voting delegate in the U.S. House of Representative. Even this section is questionable at best. Why? Because in the U.S. Constitution, there is a process to add additional members to Congress through apportionment. Additionally, it must be ratified by three-fourths of several states in the union. Even though the argument can be made that it is a non-voting delegate, a member sitting in the subcommittee can make recommendation to the committee as a whole that affect legislation in Congress. The

funding for the office of the delegate draws from the U.S. taxpayers dollars. Is this constitutional?

These are some of the 97 reasons why National Chamorro Association filed a lawsuit in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and in the International Court of Justice to plead that the Chamorros and Carolinians have been taken for granted big time, simply due to our strategic location in the Pacific.

Glenn H. Manglona
National Chamorro Association

Thank you for your generosity and participation

The Foreign Workers United Group who led and spearheaded the organized and peaceful motorcade last Sunday, May 16, 2010, at 2pm from Kilili Beach to American Memorial Park would like to express its appreciation to all the generous donors, participants and volunteers for the very successful event. Our initiative and efforts

would not have been realized without your overwhelming support and willingness to be part of the very memorable activity. One voice, one movement and one national, truly, we are one.

To all individuals, organizations, U.S. citizens and local indigenous people who participated and sympathized with the

foreign workers in the CNMI in calling for the immediate passage of the Department of the Interior's five recommendations for improved immigration status for foreign workers on the islands, thank you. With special thanks to COP Golf Cart, Grace & Star Water for the bottled water supply, Fil-American Community in

California headed by Atty. Rodel Rhodis and Bishop Nilo Tayag of Bandila for their very inspirational message and advertisement at MVC, PSS for the sound system, Korean Community for the flatbed truck, guest speakers, for the wonderful messages and for the sympathizers off-island, to those who performed during the short

program, to all volunteer marshals for the very peaceful and organized movement of the motorcade, to Mr. Edong "Da Dragon" for the banners and streamers, to all foreign and local reporters and broadcasters, thank you, truly the spirit of *Bayanihan* among us is very much alive.

To everyone, in behalf of

foreign workers united group, we thank you for your generosity, patience and cooperation. Indeed, there is light at the end of the tunnel, united we stand, united we act. God bless and good luck to everyone.

Carlito J. Marquez
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Personal vendetta

The policies and legislative decisions Assistant Secretary of Interior Tony Babauta uses in his statements before the oversight hearings and previous congressional hearings is nothing but old news. What did Mr. Babauta expect? Did he want us indigenous people to just raise the white flag and say yes to everything Interior demands? I don't think so. Mr. Babauta needs to understand that the CNMI is in political union with the United States and that our Covenant agreement states clearly that consultations must be made between our govern-

ment and our people. Did Mr. Babauta and previous assistant secretaries do any of this? No! Instead they gathered data from foreign temporary guest workers and used it as the basis for their personal agenda.

Since the drafting and passage of Public Law 110-229, Interior sat back and watched our community fall apart. Public Law 110-229 should have been carefully studied prior to enactment, this is why it's never right to mix personal vendettas with policy.

Gregorio Cruz
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

BROKEN

From Page 15

the Covenant intended to grant the CNMI the ability to bring in guest workers without being overwhelmed by "immigrants" who would become citizens. Because the population was so small in the 1970's, the Covenant negotiators envisioned that allowing "immigration" through the U.S. immigration laws might soon annihilate the Chamorro and Carolinian society.

Giving the CNMI control over immigration is an innovative arrangement that kills two birds with one stone. It stimulates and facilitates economic development, while maintaining political control among the people who gave up their lands and their sovereignty in order to further secure the national defense of the United States.

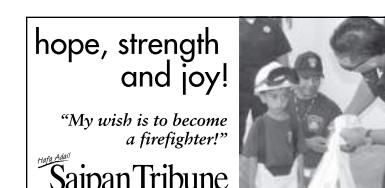
No doubt, limiting the length of stay for guest workers is uneconomical for private busi-

nesses. It is too costly to train someone to become a valuable and devoted employee only to lose him/her after three or four years and try to find a replacement. That is why all previous laws of this nature have been repealed whenever the time came for thousands of guest workers to be sent home.

However, the CNMI leaders have to make a difficult choice. Either they effectively control immigration, which means slower economic growth, or do nothing and have the U.S. apply its laws, which means voting rights for the guest workers and loss of political control for the Chamorro and Carolinians.

It appears that the CNMI leaders have opted to control immigration, stop the abuses of guest workers and avoid the application of U.S. immigration laws in order to keep control of their economic and political destiny.

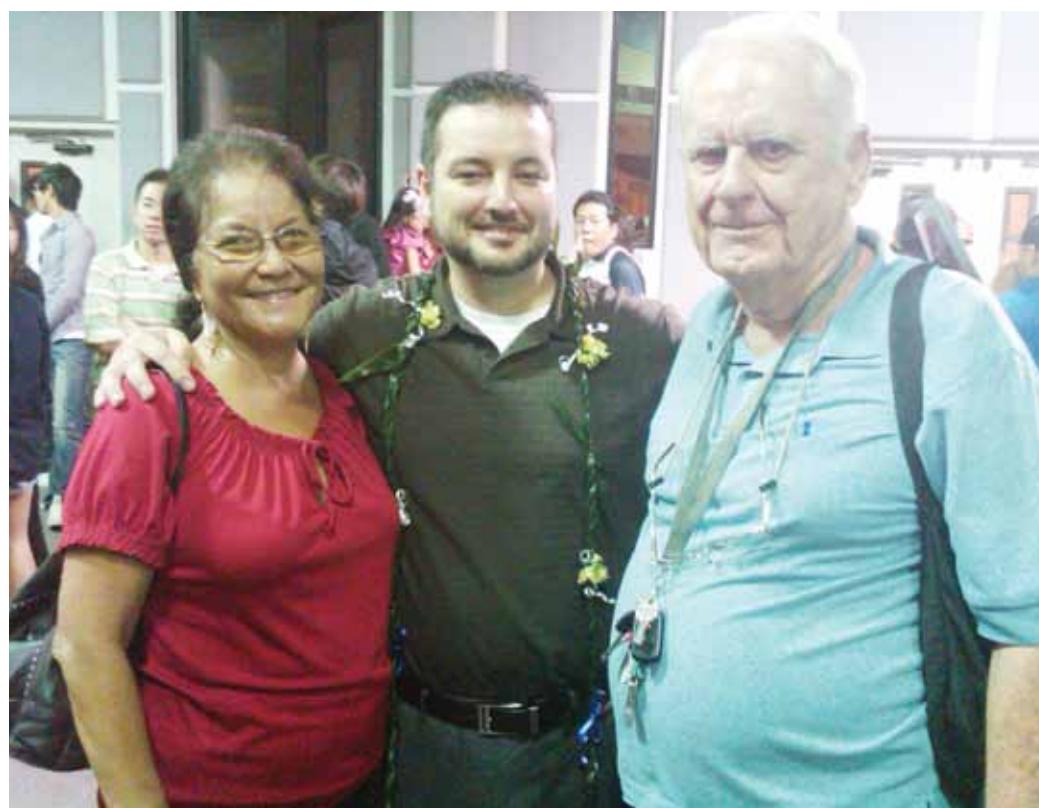
Ramon G. Villagomez
Fina Sisu Village, Saipan



"My wish is to become a firefighter!"
Saipan Tribune



Alumnus McPhetres keynotes NMA graduation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sam McPhetres is flanked by his mother, left, Agnes M. McPhetres, and right, Samuel McPhetres. The junior McPhetres is an alumnus of Northern Marianas Academy and was the keynote speaker at this year's graduation ceremony held on May 19, 2010.

The seniors of Northern Marianas Academy graduated on Wednesday night at the Multi-purpose Center, and the event was keynoted by one its successful local alumni, Seattle-based architect Samuel Manglona McPhetres.

McPhetres described how he felt "overwhelmed" when he first moved to the city of Seattle: "It was my first time living in a city. And of course it was the first time at a major university. UW at the time had more faculty, staff, and students than the population of the Northern Marianas combined."

McPhetres' speech touched on his personal journey through the initial frustrations and fears of being on his own and of culture shock, his discovery and eventual love of architecture and improving communities through design.

All throughout his personal and growth as a student, said McPhetres, he referred to a building on the UW campus, called the Ethnic Cultural Center, as his "second" home.

Like fate, said McPhetres, his firm, Rolluda Architects, got the job to work on the 25,000 square foot, three-story building. "[Rolluda Architects] went for that job and we were up against larger firms. But we had three team members who understood the Ethnic Cultural Center, what it meant, what it could be," said McPhetres. "This was my dream. ... It is proof that all the work, all the sacrifices, meant something."

McPhetres told the graduating seniors that his experiences taught him some things that he wanted to impart to the

graduates. "University will be hard and work in the real world will be hard. There are a lot of challenges that you will see and experience and you may question it," he told the graduates.

He assured the graduates, though, that "[it] will be worth it."

Calling himself an "island boy" McPhetres closed with his message to "take care" of the world and community and to "go anywhere and achieve anything."

"This is your world and community you are inheriting. Take

care of it. Embrace it. Give back to it. Leave it better than you found it. And it will treat you in kind," he said.

McPhetres is currently an architect in the Seattle firm Rolluda Architects and is a LEED-accredited professional. After graduating from NMA and NMC in 1997, he went to the University of Washington where he obtained his bachelor's degree in communications in 1999, and his graduate degree in Architecture in 2007. McPhetres is the son of Agnes McPhetres and Samuel McPhetres. (PR)

Cancer Survivor Support Meeting

All cancer survivors are invited to attend the survivor support meeting on, Monday, May 24, 2010 at Hyatt Chamolinian Room, starting at 5pm.

This month's survivor support meeting will include:

- Presentation on stress management
- Communication strategies for survivors and caregivers
- Resources available for individuals and families at the Community Guidance Center Followed by survivors-only discussion.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Joanne Ogo at 236-8728 or email joanne.ogo@gmail.com

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Pellegrino bags 2010 Youth Services Supporter of the Year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan businessman Anthony Pellegrino was named the 2010 Youth Services Supporter of the Year awardee by the Micronesian Youth Services Network, a group that honors the contributions of individuals or groups in the progress of the youth sectors throughout the Pacific.

In a simple ceremony at Pacific Islands Club Saipan yesterday, Pellegrino was handed the certificate of recognition and the plaque of appreciation by the group's officials, including MYSN president Sarah Thomas-Nededog, vice president Kenny Reklai, and assistant secretary Frances Sablan.

Pellegrino, who was one of the Top 10 awardees of the



group throughout Micronesia, was the top nominee from the Northern Marianas. Other awardees were from Pohnpei, Guam, and Palau.

Sablan disclosed that Pellegrino's selection was based on his serious commitment and dedication to help the youth on the island by providing jobs in his companies and enhancing their skills through vocational and technical courses.

Pellegrino is the owner and founder of four businesses on island: Saipan Sea Ventures, a tourism-related business that has been operating for about 26 years now; Saipan Ice and Water Co., which has been in existence for 25 years; Saipan SyAqua, Pellegrino's shrimp farm established five years ago; and the Northern Marianas Trade Institute, the islands' first technical vocational school.

He vowed to continue his commitment to helping more youth and people of the islands to become both successful individuals and businessmen. He said it is his desire to see the local population to go into business and become entrepreneurs.

The non-profit MYSN also collaborates with other youth-related groups and sectors throughout the Pacific and enhances its activities through donations and sponsors. Its main office is based in Guam.

which has nearly 200 enrollees for two years now.

"I am very honored for this recognition and I would like to thank the organization for this award," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Through his school, he hopes to encourage more parents to motivate their children to learn basic and special technical skills.

He vowed to continue his commitment to helping more youth and people of the islands to become both successful individuals and businessmen. He said it is his desire to see the local population to go into business and become entrepreneurs.

The non-profit MYSN also collaborates with other youth-related groups and sectors throughout the Pacific and enhances its activities through donations and sponsors. Its main office is based in Guam.

6:00 p.m.	Angel International School
6:30 p.m.	Stick it to the Man Band
7:00 p.m.	Remy D
7:30 p.m.	Black Sand
8:00 p.m.	Bayani Association
8:30 p.m.	Talofa Dancers
9:00 p.m.	Irie Rice Band

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10. Herman's Modern Bakery
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15. Palms Resort Hotel

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For more information contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at telephone numbers (670) 664-3200/01.

Saipan
Tinian
Rota

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DPS sets seatbelt, child seat checkpoints on Rota

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting Occupant Protection Child Restraint checkpoints on the island of Rota on May 25 and 27.

The May 25, 2010 OP/CR checkpoint will first be held along San Francisco Highway Songsong Village by the Pinatang Park, from 6am to about 7:15am. The second will be in District #4 across the Aquarius Bar & Grill, from 9am to about 10:15am.

On May 27, the checkpoint will be held along Sinapalo I Village by the San Isidro Church, from 6am to 7:15am. (DPS)

MHS Japan Club sets Saturday lunch sale

The 2010 Marianas High School Japan Club will be having a lunch sale this Saturday, May 22. The Club is offering fried chicken, barbecue ribs, coco, red rice and a drink for the price of \$5. Proceeds will go toward the class trip to Tokyo in June.

For orders or more information contact Jim Tuttle at jimbotuttle@yahoo.com or 237-3268. The MHS Japan Club would like to thank you for your kind assistance in helping their MHS students reach their dream of going to Japan.

CUC phones lines have technical problems

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is currently experiencing technical problems with its main telephone lines 235-7025 through 235-7032.

The power supply serving the main telephone system has malfunctioned, causing the system to shut down intermittently. Customers who call may get disconnected unintentionally. The required parts needed to fix the problem are unavailable on island. The system vendor anticipates solving the problem within a week or as soon as needed parts arrive.

The CUC trouble desk telephone lines, 235-0282/2282, are unaffected. (PR)

NMC Summer 2010 registration ends today

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Summer 2010 semester will end today, May 21, 2010.

New students are required to take an English and Math placement test before they register. The schedule of placement tests and the Summer 2010 class schedule can be found online at www.nmcnet.edu.

The Summer 2010 semester is divided into four sessions: Regular Summer Session (nine-week courses), Extended Summer Session (12-week courses), Summer Session I (six-week courses) and Summer Session II (six-week courses starting July 6).

Those who have not applied for admission can still do so by visiting the college's Office of Admissions and Records and picking up an application form. Application forms can also be downloaded from the NMC Web site.

Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration provided that both placement tests have been taken. Note the following dates below:

Summer 2010 Important Dates

- May 19-21: Registration for Summer 2010 Semester, 9p.m to 6pm.
- May 19-June 2: Registration for Summer Session II, 9pm to 6pm.
- May 26: First day of instruction

See COMMUNITY on Page 19

CNMI Census on track; Tinian and Rota near completion

The CNMI Local Census Office has released an update on the progress of the 2010 CNMI Census. The islands of Tinian and Rota are almost 100 percent complete and ahead of schedule with the last follow-up and quality assurance activities scheduled to be complete by June 1. Saipan is 85 percent complete and on schedule for all Census activities to be completed by August. The official count began on April 1, and workers have been in the villages over the last six weeks as part of the first phase of the Census operation.

"We have been extremely happy with the cooperation of our residents so far. Many understand how important the

Census is and how much federal funding is on the line for the next 10 years based on the results of the Census," said Juan Borja, Local Census office manager. "We have had residents call the office just to make sure a Census worker is coming to pick up their form or interview them. People truly understand what this means to the CNMI and that everyone is touched in some way by the Census results."

The 2010 CNMI Census is a count of everyone, citizen and non-citizen, living in the CNMI. Census data are used to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state, territorial and tribal governments

each year, and to help government and community leaders to make decisions about what services to provide. Many government and NGOs receive federal funding and that funding is typically based on Census data provided by CNMI residents. It is much easier to collect data for those who live in the mainland U.S. because of the number of surveys that take place regularly and availability of statistics not available in the CNMI. The Commonwealth is forced to rely on the decennial Census as the basis for much of the funding received.

"We have received a few inquiries about the number of questions asked and why they

are needed. I can assure you that each question has a specific purpose that would not be asked if it was not necessary. The operators in the Telephone Assistance Center can explain to anyone who calls why the question is being asked," said Rebecca Diaz Cartagena, CNMI Census adviser. "At first glance questions may seem unimportant, but once a resident understands why they are needed, we have found them to be cooperative because they see that this information is just not available and truly gives a snapshot of the current conditions in the CNMI."

The next phase of the Census operation has now begun and residents may receive a follow-up call in person or over the phone to ensure their answers are accurate and that the answers were given by them and not another person. "This is a random

quality assurance program that the US Census Bureau requires in order to certify that the data received is as accurate as possible," Diaz Cartagena said.

All Census forms were given an individual number by census workers that match a number, or map spot, on the official U.S. Census Bureau maps. While the last residents are being counted, clerks in the office are making sure there is a form for each map spot. They also ensure that there is only one form per household. Field staff may also need to verify maps in the villages so it is possible to see Census workers for the next two months as all the information is certified as final. Once all of the follow-up operations are completed, all forms will be bundled and sent to the US mainland to be tabulated.

The Local Census Office is asking any resident who has

not been visited by a Census employee to call the Telephone Assistance Center at 288-3040 so that a Census worker can be sent to the residence and either pick up the completed form or interview the resident and fill out the form for them. The hours of operation are 9am to 8:30pm, Monday to Friday, Saturday 12pm to 8pm and Sunday, 12pm to 6pm, except on holidays. Assistance is available in multiple languages and operators will enlist the help of translators when necessary.

All answers given to Census workers are confidential and protected by law. Census workers take an oath for 72 years and face up to five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine for disclosing any Census data.

For further information about the 2010 CNMI Census, call 288-3023/27. (*CNMI Census*)

COMMUNITY

From Page 18

■ May 31: CNMI Legal Holiday (Memorial Day)

■ July 6: First day of instruction for Summer Session II

For more information regarding admissions or registration, contact OAR at 234-5498 ext. 1537 or email oar@ncmnet.edu, or log on to www.ncmnet.edu. (PR)

MHS Parent Literacy Night

The Marianas High School is going to have a Parent Literacy Night on May 26, 2010, from 6pm to 7pm. This event will be

hosted by the Math Department. Refreshments will be served. There will be lots of informational activities, students presenters, and take home arts and crafts. (MHS)

USCIS offers Webinars for the CNMI Form I-9

The Verification Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is offering a series of one-hour Webinars on the CNMI Form I-9 beginning yesterday, May 20, from 8am to 9:15am local time. The Webinar is a live meeting that takes place over the Internet.

The meeting includes a pre-

sentation that gives attendees the opportunity to learn about the CNMI Form I-9. The CNMI Form I-9 is only for use in the CNMI and is required for all new hires in the Commonwealth since Nov. 28, 2009. To register for one of the Webinars, go to the Sign Up for a Webinar page.

Those who need more information or assistance can contact their customer service representative Tuesday through Saturday from 4am to 1pm local time by dialing 1-888-464-4218. To learn more about the federalization of immigration law in the CNMI, go to www.uscis.gov/cnmi. (USCIS)

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FRIDAYS: KAGMAN SUPERMARKET 6PM TO 8PM
SATURDAYS: JOETEN SUPERSTORE 1PM TO 3PM

WEDNESDAYS: GODFATHER'S BAR 6:30PM TO 10:30PM
THURSDAYS: WILD BILL'S BAR & GRILL 6:30PM TO 10:30PM
SATURDAYS: JONNY'S BAR & GRILL 6:30PM TO 10:30PM

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RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

Business

Regulators to testify on market dive, new rules

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two weeks after the stock market's epic dive, federal regulators and U.S. securities exchanges have a new plan to keep it from happening again, proposing that essentially markets call a "time out" when trading gets too chaotic.

The question is whether it will work. The big stock exchanges say that new curbs on trading known as "circuit breakers" will help prevent runaway market drops. But not everyone is convinced. To some market watchers, the rules are too limited. To others, the rules go too far.

The government's two top market regulators are appearing before a Senate panel Thurs-

day in the aftermath of the wild trading day that stunned Wall Street, and Washington, on May 6. Mary Schapiro, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Gary Gensler, head of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, will testify at the hearing.

Also coming before the Senate Banking subcommittee on securities are senior officials of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, which is the brokerage industry's self-policing body, and the parent companies of the New York Stock Exchange, the Nasdaq stock market and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

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Attorney for Bank of Guam

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANK OF GUAM,

Plaintiff,

vs.

KARL T. REYES, et.al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 08-0260-CV

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 21, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following parcels of property. Please note: the "Brief Descriptions" below are solely for ease of reference, and the Bank of Guam makes no warranty, representation, or guarantee as to condition or improvements included with the parcels of property.

1. Lot No. H-175-1, and more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2108/85, the original of which was recorded on July 25, 1985 as Document No. 85-1399 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office in Saipan, CNMI.

Brief Description

Located on the lot is a three story, 22,764 square foot building, known as King's Plaza. King's Plaza, located in Dan Dan village across from the Joeten Dan Dan Building, has approximately 15, 274 square feet of commercial space of the first two stories, with the third story, consisting of 7,390 square feet, currently being used as residential space.

2. Lot No. H-175-NEW-1, more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2097/96, the original of which was recorded on July 31, 1996 as Document No. 96-1905 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office in Saipan, CNMI.

Brief Description

This property is located directly behind King's Plaza, and is currently paved and serves as over-flow parking for the plaza. The area is zoned for residential use.

3. Lot No. H-175-NEW-2, more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2097/96, the original of which was recorded on July 31, 1996 as Document No. 96-1905 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office in Saipan, CNMI.

Brief Description

This property is located directly behind King's Plaza, and currently serves as over-flow parking for the plaza. The area is zoned for residential use.

4. Lot No. 019 J 13, consisting of 9,100 square meters more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 019 J 03, the original of which was recorded on July 30, 1993 as Document No. 93-2723 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office in Saipan, CNMI.

Brief Description

This property is located in Dan Dan village, just East of the Saipan International Airport, on the way to Nafan Point. Property is currently undeveloped and zoned for rural use.

5. Lot No. H-175-NEW-3, more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2097/96, the original of which was recorded on July 31, 1996 as Document No. 96-1905 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office in Saipan, CNMI.

Brief Description

This property is located in Dan Dan Village and is subject to a pre-paid lease, which will expire on December 18, 2044. Property is partially developed, but with no permanent structures.

6. Tract No. 22717, consisting of 49,998 square meters more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2001/76, the original of which was recorded on May 18, 1983 as Document No. 17256 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office in Saipan, CNMI.

Brief Description

This property is located in Talofofo village and is subject to a pre-paid lease which will expire on November 19, 2057. Property is undeveloped and is zoned for rural use.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on June 14, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit/Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of April, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

The SEC on Tuesday unveiled the new plan for circuit breakers, which was agreed upon with the exchanges. Under the plan, trading of any Standard & Poor's 500 stock that rises or falls 10 percent or more within a five-minute period would be halted for five minutes. The rules would be applied if the

price swing occurs between 9:45 a.m. and 3:35 p.m. Eastern time—nearly the entire trading day.

The reality, however, is that it may not be known whether the new curbs are effective, too limited or too extreme until there is another day like May 6, when intense selling sent the Dow

Jones industrials down to a loss of almost 1,000 points in less than a half-hour.

The idea behind the circuit breakers is that by giving investors a break during extreme market dips, they'll be less likely to set off a chain reaction of human and computerized selling.

That's one of several possible causes of the May 6 plunge. The drop, dubbed by some a "flash crash," briefly wiped out \$1 tril-

lion in market value as some stocks traded as low as a penny.

Meanwhile, the investigation by the SEC and the CFTC has brought out only a preliminary picture of what caused the cascade of market distress that day. Investigators are focusing on, among other things, a possible link between the steep decline in prices of stock indexes, and "simultaneous and subsequent" waves of selling in individual stocks.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wal-Mart pulls jewelry over cadmium

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Wal-Mart said Wednesday it is pulling an entire line of Miley Cyrus-brand necklaces and bracelets from its shelves after tests performed for The Associated Press found the jewelry contained high levels of the toxic metal cadmium. In a statement issued three hours after AP's initial report of its findings, Wal-Mart said it would remove the jewelry, made exclusively for the world's largest retailer, while it investigates. The statement was issued along with Cyrus and Max Azria, the designer who developed the jewelry for the 17-year-old "Hannah Montana" star. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. had learned of cadmium in the Miley Cyrus jewelry, as well as in an unrelated line of bracelet charms, back in February, based on an earlier round of testing

conducted at AP's request, but had continued selling the items. It said as recently as last month that it would be too difficult to test products already on its shelves.

Japan's economy grows for fourth straight quarter

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economic growth accelerated in the first quarter, as robust export growth spurred companies and consumers to boost spending. Real gross domestic product grew at an annual pace of 4.9 percent in the January-March period, the government said Thursday. The figure marks the fourth straight quarter of expansion but misses Kyodo news agency's average market forecast for annualized growth of 5.6 percent. The results reflect how Japan is benefiting heavily from the recovering global economy, which has led to robust export de-

mand, particularly in China and elsewhere in Asia. Companies have responded by boosting production and capital investments.

Oil gains to above \$70 amid mixed US supply data

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose above \$70 a barrel Thursday in Asia, recovering from an eight-month low after the European debt crisis battered crude this month. Benchmark crude for June delivery was up 44 cents to \$70.31 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The June contract expires later Thursday and much of the trading volume has shifted to the July contract, which rose 36 cents to \$72.84. The June contract added 46 cents to settle at \$69.87 on Wednesday after dropping earlier in the session to \$67.90, the lowest since September.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP10-OHS-099

SUBMISSION: JUNE 17, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY BUILDING 1326 AND 1358

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY SITE VISIT WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 03, 2010 AT 9:30 A.M. BEGINNING WITH BUILDING 1326 AND WILL THEN CONTINUE ONWARD TO BUILDING 1358. PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTS SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE SITE VISIT. FAILURE TO ATTEND THE SITE VISIT SHALL RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MR. PATRICK J. TENORIO, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR OHS BY EMAIL TO pjtenorio@gmail.com NO LATER THAN JUNE 08, 2010 CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ PATRICK J. TENORIO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF RFP10-OVR-085

SUBMISSION: JUNE 22, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-SUBMISSION ORIENTATION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, NAVY HILL, SAIPAN AT 10:00 A.M. JUNE 08, 2010. PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS ORIENTATION. QUESTIONS ARE DUE ON JUNE 11, 2010 NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT IS PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA).

/s/ MARGARITA OLOPAI-TAITANO
DIRECTOR OF OVR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB10-DPH-105

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 09, 2010

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF SIX (6) LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND SOFTWARE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP10-DPL-096

SUBMISSION: JUNE 15, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO CONDUCT SURVEYING SERVICES TO INCLUDE THE PREPARATION OF PERIMETER AND TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY, EIA, AND SUBDIVISION DESIGN INTO ONE PACKAGE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. PATRICIA S. RASA, DIRECTOR, DPL PLANNING DIVISION AT (670) 234-3751/3752/53/57 OR BY FAX TO (670) 234-3755, NO LATER THAN JUNE 03, 2010, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ OSCAR M. BABAUTA
SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, June 03, 2010 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes
- Communications
- Public Comments

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Mo. auto dealer pleads guilty to aiding al-Qaida

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A Kansas City auto parts dealer who had sworn allegiance to al-Qaida pleaded guilty Wednesday to taking part in a conspiracy to provide financial support to the terrorist group.

Khalid Ouazzani, 32, a Moroccan native who became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2006, admitted that he sent \$23,500 to al-Qaida between August 2007 and mid-2008. Although Ouazzani talked with others about ways to support al-Qaida, including plans for them to fight in Afghanistan, Iraq or Somalia, U.S. Attorney Beth Phillips said he did not pose a threat to the Kansas City area, where he briefly operated a business that sold auto parts and used vehicles. "At no point prior to his arrest was he any threat to cause imminent harm or danger to the citizens of our community," Phillips said at a news conference. Ouazzani was arrested in February on 33 counts contained in a sealed grand jury indictment charging him with bank fraud, money laundering, interstate fraud and making false statements to the government. There was no mention of any terrorism charges in the initial indictment.

Colo. police retrieve body from irrigation ditch

GREELEY, Colo. (AP)—Police retrieved a decomposed body from an irrigation ditch in northern Colorado on Wednesday, about a half-mile from the home of a missing sixth-grader. There was no immediate indication of whether it was the body of 12-year-old Kayleah Wilson, who was last seen walking March 28 to a friend's house for a birthday party. "We are unable to make an identification at this time," Sgt. Joe Tymkowich said. "The decomposition is to the point where it's difficult to say whether it's a male or a female." Tymkowich said investigators couldn't rule out that the body was the brown-haired, blue-eyed Wilson, described as about 5-foot-1 and 145 pounds. "Given the size of the person and its state of decomposition, it's a possibility," he said. A worker checking the ditch for problems after heavy rain Tuesday found the body in about 3 feet of water early Wednesday, Tymkowich said.

Obama clamors for federal fix to immigration woes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Confronting soaring frustration over illegal immigration, President Barack Obama on Wednesday condemned Arizona's crackdown and pushed instead for a federal fix the nation could embrace. He said that will never happen without Republican support, pleading: "I need some help."

In asking anew for an immigration overhaul, Obama showed solidarity with his guest of honor, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who called Arizona's law discriminatory and warned Mexico would reject any effort to "criminalize migration." The United States and Mexico share a significant economic and political relation-

ship that stands to be damaged the more the nations are at odds over immigration, which affects millions of people on both sides of the border.

Obama sought to show that he, too, is fed up with his own government's failure to fix a system widely seen as broken. He said that would require solving border security, employment and citizenship issues all at once—the kind of effort that collapsed in Congress just three years ago.

The president's stand underscored the forces working against him in this election year: the need for help from Republican critics, the impatience of states like Arizona after federal inaction, the pressure to show

movement on a campaign promise, and the mood of the public disgusted by porous borders.

The Arizona law requires

police to question people about their immigration status if there's reason to suspect they're in the country illegally.

and it makes it a state crime to be in the U.S. illegally. People may be questioned about their status if they've been stopped by police who are in the process of enforcing another law.

The law will take effect July

29 unless legal challenges are

successful. Almost twice as many people support it as those who oppose it, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll this month. It found that 42 percent favored it, 24 percent opposed it and another 29 percent said they were neutral.

Yet in a Rose Garden appearance with Calderon, Obama called the Arizona law "a misdirected expression of frustration." He expects to announce soon what action his government may take about it, once the Justice Department finishes reviewing whether the law violates civil rights.

"In the United States of America, no law-abiding person—be

they an American citizen, a legal immigrant, or a visitor or tourist from Mexico—should ever be subject to suspicion simply because of what they look like," Obama said.

Calderon was upbeat about the chance of finding a fair, dignified way of dealing with migrants. He added: "Many of them, despite their significant contribution to the economy and to the society of the United States, still live in the shadows, and occasionally, as in Arizona, they even face discrimination."

The immigration theme dominated a day of pageantry and showy support for Calderon, who enjoyed a state visit with his wife, Margarita Zavala.

Official: NYC bomb suspect had considered other targets

NEW YORK (AP)—While sequestered in a New York hotel room, the Times Square bomb suspect revealed he had thought about targeting other landmarks and asked investigators why the bomb he built failed to go off, people familiar with the probe said Wednesday.

If the top kill effort fails, BP is considering a "junk shot," which involves shooting knotted rope, pieces of tires and golf balls into the blowout preventer. Crews hope they will lodge into the nooks and crannies of the device to plug it.

About 70 BP workers are taking more suggestions at a tip line center in Houston. The company plans to test one idea from actor Kevin Costner—a centrifuge device to vacuum up the oil—but that was not delivered through the suggestion-box system.

enforcement official told The Associated Press.

A person familiar with the case said Wednesday that during more than two weeks of questioning, the Pakistani-American also expressed surprise that the device—a mishmash of fireworks, gasoline canisters, propane tanks and fertilizer—did not detonate. The suspect said he thought the fireworks would trigger a chain-reaction that would rupture the tanks and create a deadly fireball, the person said.

Shahzad, who authorities say has claimed he received explosives training in Pakistan, even asked interrogators to explain why the device failed.

Inventors say BP ignoring their oil spill ideas

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A suggestion box or publicity stunt? BP has received thousands of ideas from the public on how to stop a blown oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, but some inventors are complaining that their efforts are getting ignored.

Oil-eating bacteria, bombs and a device that resembles a giant shower curtain are among the 10,000 fixes people have proposed to counter the growing environmental threat. BP is taking a closer look at 700 of the ideas, but the oil company has yet to use any of them nearly a month after the deadly explosion that caused the leak.

"They're clearly out of ideas, and there's a whole world of people willing to do this free of charge," said Dwayne Spradlin,

CEO of InnoCente Inc., which has created an online network of experts to solve problems.

BP spokesman Mark Salt said the company wants the public's help, but that considering proposed fixes takes time.

"They're taking bits of ideas from lots of places," Salt said. "This is not just a PR stunt." BP said Wednesday it hopes to begin shooting a mixture known as drilling mud into the blown-out well in the Gulf by Sunday. The "top kill" method involves shooting heavy mud into crippled equipment on top of the well, then aiming cement at the well to permanently keep down the oil. Even if it works it could take several weeks to complete.

"This is all being done at a

depth of 5,000 feet and it's never been done at these depths before," said Doug Suttles of BP PLC, which leased the rig that exploded April 20 off the coast of Louisiana.

If the top kill effort fails, BP is considering a "junk shot," which involves shooting knotted rope, pieces of tires and golf balls into the blowout preventer. Crews hope they will lodge into the nooks and crannies of the device to plug it.

About 70 BP workers are taking more suggestions at a tip line center in Houston. The company plans to test one idea from actor Kevin Costner—a centrifuge device to vacuum up the oil—but that was not delivered through the suggestion-box system.

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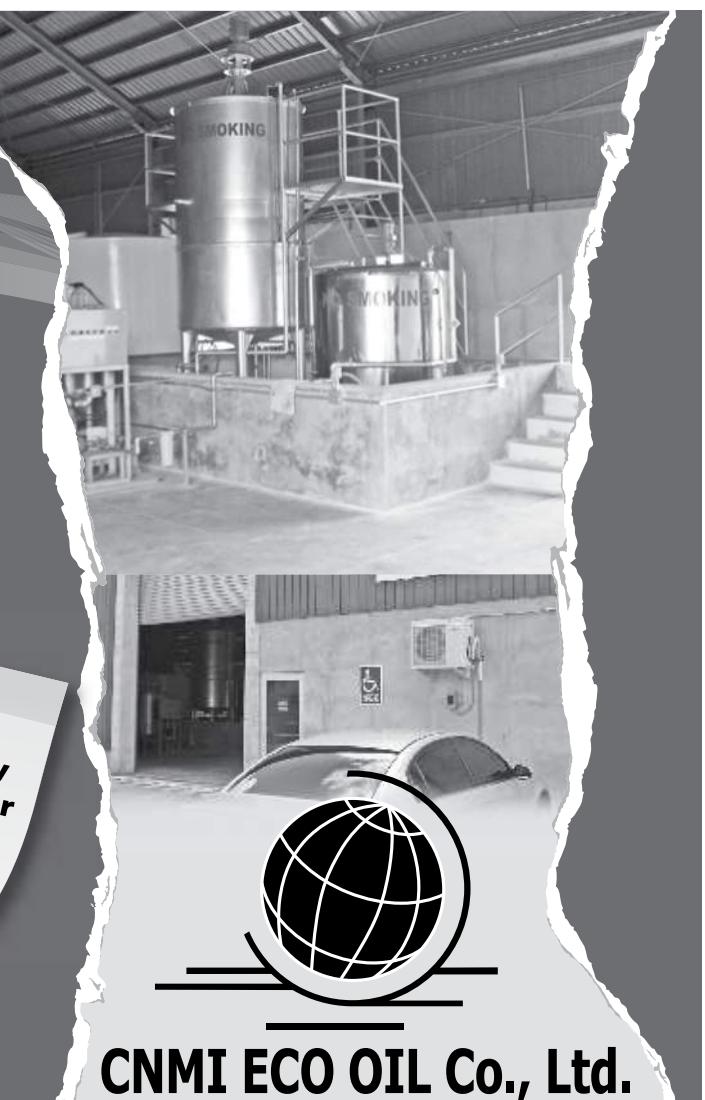
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Asia

NKorea warns of war if punished for ship sinking

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—

South Korea accused North Korea on Thursday of firing a torpedo that sank a naval warship in March, killing 46 sailors in the country's worst military disaster since the Korean War.

President Lee Myung-bak vowed "stern action" for the provocation following the release of long-awaited results from a multinational investigation into the incident. North Korea, reacting swiftly, called the results a fabrication and warned that any retaliation would trigger war.

Investigators said evidence overwhelmingly proves North Korea fired a homing torpedo that caused a massive underwater blast that tore the Cheonan into two on March 26. Fifty-eight sailors were rescued from the frigid Yellow Sea waters near the Koreas' maritime border, but 46 perished.

"(We) will take resolute countermeasures against North Korea and make it admit its wrongdoings through strong international cooperation," Lee told Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in a phone conversation, the presidential office said.

The White House called the sinking an unacceptable "act of aggression" that violates in-



A South Korean conservative activist holds a defaced portrait of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il during an anti-North Korea rally in front of the Defense Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, May 20, 2010.

ternational law and the truce signed in 1953.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a former South Korean foreign minister, called the investigation results "deeply

troubling," his spokesman said in a statement.

China, North Korea's traditional ally, called the sinking of the naval ship "unfortunate" but stopped short of backing Seoul.

Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai refused to comment further Thursday other than reiterating long-standing Chinese comments on the need to maintain peace on the Korean peninsula.

South Korean and U.S. officials have said they are considering a variety of options, ranging from U.N. Security Council action to additional U.S. penalties.

North Korea already is chafing from international sanctions tightened last year in the wake of widely condemned nuclear and missile tests.

Pyongyang, meanwhile, continued its steadfast denials of involvement in the sinking and said it would send its own investigators to conduct a probe, while warning that any punishment against the North would spark war.

"The all-out war to be undertaken by us will be a sacred war involving the whole nation, all the people and the whole state," a spokesman for North Korea's powerful National Defense Commission said, according to a report carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

North Korea's Kim Jong Il serves as chairman of the National Defense Commission, a position that makes him leader of the communist nation of 24 million.

The North also warned the South against any provocative acts near the Koreas' borders in the aftermath of the sinking, saying it would react with an "unlimited retaliatory blow, merciless strong physical blow."

Pyongyang, which accused Lee's government of exploiting the disaster for political gain, also urged the U.S. and Japan to "act with discretion."

Troops move against protest holdouts

BANGKOK (AP)—Buildings smoldered across central Bangkok early Thursday and troops exchanged sporadic fire with pockets of holdouts a day after the army routed anti-government protesters in a push to end Thailand's deadliest political violence in nearly 20 years.

The government quelled most of the violence in the battered Thai capital but not the underlying political divisions that caused it, and unrest spread to provinces in the north and northeast.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva imposed a nighttime curfew in the capital and 23 other provinces and said his government would restore calm. Although leaders of the Red Shirt demonstrators surrendered, sporadic clashes between troops and remaining protesters continued Thursday morning.

As night fell Wednesday, Bangkok's skyline was blotted by flashes of fire and black smoke from more than two dozen buildings set ablaze—including Thailand's stock exchange, main power company, banks, a movie theater and one of Asia's largest shopping malls.

At least six people were killed in clashes that followed the army's storming of the protest camp Wednesday. Witnesses said another six to eight bodies were in a temple where hundreds of demonstrators, including women and children, had sought sanctuary.

On Thursday morning, troops in the central business district, occupied by protest-

ers for weeks, exchanged occasional fire with holdouts as locals in the area looted a vast tent city the activists had cobbled together.

Since the Red Shirts began their protest in mid-March, at least 74 people—mostly civilians—have been killed and nearly 1,800 wounded. Of those, 45 people have died in clashes that started May 13 after the army tried to blockade their 1-square-mile (3-square-kilometer) camp.

While many of the rioters were believed to be members of the Red Shirts and their sympathizers, there was also an element of criminals and young hoodlums involved in the mayhem in the city of 10 million people. The protest and violence in one of Southeast Asia's most stable countries has damaged its economy and tourism industry.

With the top Red Shirt leaders in custody, it was unclear what the next move would be for the protesters who had demanded the ouster of the prime minister's government, the dissolution of parliament and new elections. The protesters, many of them poor farmers or members of the urban underclass, say Abhisit came to power illegitimately and is oblivious to their plight.

The crackdown should silence the large number of government supporters who were urging a harder line, and the rioting that followed may extinguish the widespread sympathy many had for the protesters' cause.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Professor given 3 1/2 years in China swingers case

BELIJING (AP)—A college professor accused of organizing a swingers club and holding private orgies in China was sentenced to 3 1/2 years in prison, officials said, in a case that touched off national debate about sexual freedom. Ma Yaohai, 53, was convicted and sentenced on charges of group licentiousness for participating in group sex parties, said an official from the Qinhui District Court in southeastern Nanjing. The official, who declined to give his name, refused to answer further questions. Ma, along with 21 other people, was arrested and charged last year—the first time anyone has been charged under a 1997 law in a case that has snagged huge public interest with its titillating details. It also generated debate about sexual freedom in a nation trying to reshape its own modern morality.

Taliban attack key US base in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban insurgents armed with rockets, grenades and suicide vests stormed the giant U.S.-run Bagram Air Field before dawn Wednesday, triggering an eight-hour firefight that killed an American contractor and at least 10 attackers and wounded nine U.S. service members. As troops and contractors huddled in secure bunkers, the militants fired their weapons over American defenses into the base, according to Maj.

Virginia McCabe, a spokeswoman for U.S. forces at Bagram. White smoke could be seen rising from the garrison as U.S. attack helicopters whirred overhead. It was the second major Taliban assault in the Kabul area in as many days, breaking a nearly three-month lull in insurgent attacks around the Afghan capital. Eighteen people, including five U.S. soldiers and a Canadian colonel, were killed Tuesday in a suicide car bombing in Kabul.

Indonesian police seize 71 giant turtles in Bali

DENPASAR, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police have confiscated 71 endangered giant sea turtles from a food stall on the resort island of Bali, an officer said Wednesday. The owner of the stall was arrested when the giant green turtles, named chelonia mydas, were found inside his storehouse in Denpasar, chief detective Col. Andi Taqdir Rahmantiro said. Rahmantiro said the stall owner told police he purchased the turtles, with an average size of more than 3.3 feet (one meter), from fishermen who caught them in waters off Sulawesi island. Turtle meat is a traditional delicacy in the predominantly Hindu province of Bali, although Indonesia has banned turtle trade and consumption due to concerns about dwindling numbers and threats by animal welfare groups of a tourist boycott of Bali. Turtles are among several protected species in Indonesia, a vast nation of 17,000 islands.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-044

"GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT GTC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **General Repair Works at GTC Elementary School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 7, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$40.35.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 26, 2010, at 3:30 p.m., local time, at the GTC Elementary School Cafeteria in San Roque, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 1, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-044, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:00 a.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

World

Mothers of 3 detained Americans arrive in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The mothers of three jailed Americans brought appeals for their freedom to Iran Wednesday on a mission that could be complicated by diplomatic showdowns over Iran's nuclear program.

The three women are scheduled to visit their children—who have been held since July when they were arrested along the Iraqi border—and seek meetings with top Iranian officials. Iran's state-run Press TV said the weeklong visas had been granted on an "Islamic humanitarian basis."

Nora Shourd, Cindy Hickey and Laura Fattal wore long black headscarves as they left their flight from Dubai at Tehran's main international airport south of the capital. They passed through routine customs and passport checks as well being fingerprinted—a require-

ment imposed on Americans in retaliation for U.S. immigration controls on Iranians.

They were met by envoys from the Swiss Embassy, which represents U.S. interests in Iran, and taken in embassy vehicles from the airport. The Swiss ambassador to Tehran presented them with flowers at the airport.

"We are here to visit our children that we haven't seen for 10 months. We miss them very much," said Shourd in a trembling voice before bursting into tears.

"We hope to take them back," she said as tears rolled down her cheek.

Their arrival came a day after the United States said it had won support from other major powers for a new set of sanctions against Iran over its suspect nuclear program.

Iran has accused the three

Americans—Sarah Shourd, 31; her boyfriend, Shane Bauer, 27; and their friend Josh Fattal, 27—of spying. Their relatives reject the accusation and say the three were hiking in Iraq's scenic and largely peaceful northern Kurdish region.

Their lawyer, Masoud Shafii, told The Associated Press the mothers are seeking meetings with officials involved in the case, and ideally with top Iranian leaders, including President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say in all state matters.

Although the Americans have not been publicly charged, Shafii left open the possibility of a resolution outside of usual legal channels.

"Anything is possible," he said when asked whether the three might be released soon.

"It doesn't have the feel of a normal court case."

Shafii plans to meet the mothers in Tehran and said they would visit the three detainees on Thursday. He said he has not yet been granted access to his clients.

Shafii said it was unclear whether they would meet at Tehran's notorious Evin prison where the three are being held or at another location.

"We have to wait and see ... but I think they are going to be given enough time with their children," he said.

The United States announced Tuesday that it has agreed with China, Russia and other major powers on a proposal for "strong" new sanctions against Iran, but they now face the challenge of getting backing from the rest of the U.N. Security Council.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran rejects UN sanctions resolution draft

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Wednesday dismissed as "illegitimate" a draft U.N. Security Council resolution seeking to impose harsher sanctions against Tehran for its refusal to halt uranium enrichment. Mojtaba Hashemi Samareh, a top adviser to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, said the draft proposed by the U.S. was a reactionary response to a deal in which Iran agreed to ship much of its low-enriched uranium to Turkey. The surprise deal, brokered by Turkey and Brazil Monday, didn't ease concerns in the West that Iran's nuclear program has military dimensions primarily because Tehran has said it will continue to enrich uranium to higher levels. Uranium enriched to a low level is used for nuclear fuel, but if processed to much higher levels it can be fashioned into a weapon.

Chavez wants US to ID money laundering suspects

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela will ask U.S. authorities to hand over information about brokers suspected of laundering money through the South American nation's parallel currency market, President Hugo Chavez said Wednesday. Chavez referred to a case in which 16 people were indicted in the United States on charges of laundering at least \$7 million in drug trafficking profits through exchanges of Venezuelan currency for U.S. dollars. Chavez said he believes some of the suspects are Venezuelans, and he suggested some could be linked to the dozens of brokerage firms in Venezuela that have been accused of violating currency trading regulations.

Land activist killed by gunmen in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—A leader of families displaced by Colombia's violence was shot dead in what human rights groups said Wednesday is the latest attack on activists seeking the return of land stolen by far-right paramilitary groups. Rogelio Martinez, 51, was riding on a mototaxi near his residence in San Onofre, Sucre province when gunmen intercepted the vehicle and shot him at least three times Tuesday, police Col. Hugo Javier Agudelo said. No arrests had been made and police didn't offer a motive. Human rights groups said Martinez had been receiving death threats since December 2008. Martinez lived with 52 displaced families locked in a dispute with a paramilitary group over a 556-hectare (1,374-acre) farm called "La Alemania," according to a press releases from the Interchurch Commission for Justice and Peace and the human rights group CODHES.

Rescuers find 28 bodies in Turkish mine

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Rescuers on Thursday found the bodies of 28 Turkish miners three days after a methane gas explosion collapsed parts of a major coal mine in northern Turkey, the energy minister said.

Taner Yildiz said rescuers were still trying to find two

other miners missing in the Karadon mine, near the Black Sea port of Zonguldak.

The explosion Monday buried the miners some 1,770 feet (540 meters) below the surface. Eleven miners were evacuated shortly after the explosion.

Some 400 mine rescue workers

had been trying to reach the missing miners since then, their work hampered by collapsed rocks.

Authorities are investigating whether safety rules were violated—a common factor in past mine accidents in Turkey.

It was the third mine accident in Turkey in the past six months.

In February, a methane gas explosion collapsed an underground chamber in a coal mine in northwestern Balikesir province, killing 13 workers. In December, a similar accident killed 19 miners in neighboring Bursa province.

In Turkey's worst mining disaster, a gas explosion killed 270 workers near Zonguldak in 1992.

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System**
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-045

"GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT DANDAN SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **General Repair Works at Dandan Elementary School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 7, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$35.50.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 27, 2010, at 3:30 p.m., local time, at the Dandan Elementary School Library in Dandan, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 1, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-045, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System**
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PSS RFP 10-054

"STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS FOR THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in **"Facilitating work on Standards and Benchmarks for the Career and Technical Education Program."** The Scope of Work is available beginning March 14, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the COE Conference Room, 3rd floor Retirement Fund Building. Questions must be in writing and addressed to Jessica Barcenas Taylor, CTE Program Coordinator via fax to 670.664.3796 or e-mail to butterspirit@yahoo.com no later than June 7, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-054" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Any proposals submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Off the Wall

Ala. teacher uses assassination example in class

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—A Jefferson County geometry teacher was placed on paid administrative leave Tuesday after being accused of using a hypothetical assassination plot on President Barack Obama as a way to teach geometric angles.

School Superintendent Phil Hammonds said Corner High School teacher Gregory Harrison could face possible termination.

Hammonds earlier said the teacher remained at work and there were no plans to fire him. But in announcing that the teacher was being placed on leave, the superintendent said his office had been flooded with calls from people around the nation, mainly up-

set that further action hadn't been taken against the teacher.

Roy Sexton, special agent in charge of Birmingham's Secret Service office, said his agency spoke with the teacher after being told about his comment, but no charges were filed and the investigation was closed.

"We did not find a credible threat," Sexton said.

Hammonds said he will talk to teachers and students before recommending to the school board what action, if any, might be appropriate. It was not immediately known how long the teacher may be on leave.

Hammonds said the school system in Alabama's most populous county was embarrassed

by what Harrison said.

"There is nothing that can be said to rationalize what he said. We take this very seriously. There is no place in our society for a person to make these comments," Hammonds said.

Attempts to reach Harrison for comment were not immediately successful. Calls to Hammonds were referred to the school system's attorney, Burgin Kent, who did not immediately return a call for comment.

Joseph Brown, a senior in the geometry class, told The Birmingham News that the teacher "was talking about angles and said, 'If you're in this building, you would need to take this angle to shoot the president.'"

Teen mountain climber accused of 'street surfing'

MALIBU (AP)—A California teen who made headlines as a pioneering mountain climber could face charges for allegedly surfing up the Pacific Coast Highway on top of a car on his way to school.

Authorities say 18-year-old Johnny Strange of Malibu was photographed Wednesday by a bus passenger after climbing out of a BMW's passenger window and standing on the car as it moved with traffic in a 50 mph zone.

Strange was later confronted by sheriff's deputies in the halls of Malibu High School. Prosecutors are deciding what charges to file.

Strange made headlines last summer when he climbed Mt. Everest and then Australia's Mt. Kosciuszko, becoming the youngest person to summit the highest peaks on all seven continents.



AP
This undated image provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department shows a person "street surfing" along Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, Calif.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

ND man charged with fraud after fairy tale wedding

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—Prosecutors say the marriage of a couple at Fairy Tale Weddings in North Dakota was a fairy tale fraud. Federal court documents released Wednesday say 23-year-old Jeffrey Goble agreed to marry 28-year-old Alma Numic for \$15,000 so the Bosnian woman could obtain U.S. citizenship in 2008. Goble is now charged with marriage fraud. He could face up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted. A message left for his public defender wasn't returned. Numic has since moved to Bosnia. Court documents say the pair met through Goble's co-worker but parted ways after the wedding. Fairy Tale Weddings didn't return messages. The Grand Forks wedding business' website encourages couples to "Let your imagination create your wedding day."

Police: Pa. woman hid in coffin to escape custody

MIFFLINTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Authorities say a Philadelphia woman hid in a coffin at a central Pennsylvania funeral home to escape custody. Nicole April Kelly was arraigned Monday on charges stemming from the escape. Police say the 19-year-old Kelly was being transported to jail by Juniata County deputies on Thursday to await extradition to another county on other charges. Authorities say Kelly escaped from the deputies, prompting a search that lasted several hours. Investigators say the owner of the Brown Funeral Home found

her in the coffin and held her until police arrived. Kelly remains jailed in lieu of \$75,000 bail.

Women allegedly try to smuggle meth inside Bible

LIVINGSTON, La. (AP)—Two women have been arrested for allegedly attempting to smuggle crystal methamphetamine inside a Bible to a Walker man jailed in the Livingston Parish Detention Center. Sheriff's deputies told The Advocate that a 28-year-old woman allegedly delivered a Bible containing methamphetamine to the detention center on May 12. They said a 35-year-old woman allegedly gave the drug-containing Bible to the jailed man. The intended recipient, a 30-year-old man, has been in jail since October on a variety of drug-related arrests. The jailed man was booked with entering contraband into a penal institution, and the 35-year-old woman was booked with being a principal to entering contraband into a penal institution.

2 lambs found at Ohio school in apparent prank

GREEN, Ohio (AP)—Two lambs that disappeared from an Ohio farm were left on the lawn of a high school with "2010" painted on their sides in an apparent prank. Schools Superintendent Michael Nutter says the 3-day-old lambs were not harmed by their visit Tuesday morning to Green High School, about 40 miles south of Cleveland. But he warns that the culprits won't pull the wool over anyone's eyes. School administrators are reviewing images captured from cameras inside and outside the school in hopes of identifying the pranksters. Nutter isn't saying how they might be disciplined. The lambs' owner in nearby Canal Fulton says he's glad to have them back on his farm. He says they're so young they need to stay by their mother.

Labor group offers to lease Texas gov. mobile home

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A labor union has a new home for the Texas governor, whose spacious accommodations cost the state nearly \$10,000 a month. This home has no pool or fancy ice machine. But it's a delightful shade of green - and it's mobile. The Texas AFL-CIO bought a manufactured house and showed it off Wednesday, saying Gov. Rick Perry could lease it for \$1 per year. The union was making fun of Perry's rental home in a gated community. The Associated Press reported this week that the Republican governor has spent almost \$600,000 in public money the past two years to live temporarily in the home on the outskirts of Austin. Perry spokesman Mark Miner says the AFL-CIO stunt is merely a political gimmick for Democratic candidate Bill White.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Regular meeting Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings
 - 1. October 15, 2009
 - 2. March 31, 2010
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. Report of the Chairman
 - 1. ROC No. 10-008
 - B. Report of the Administrator / Deputy Administrator
 - 1. ROA No. 10-008
 - 2. Accounting Report
 - a) NMI Retirement Fund
 - b) GHILTF
 - c) WCC
 - 3. Drawdown Requests
 - 4. Other Administrator Status / Updates
 - a) Policies, Programs, and/or Legislative Reports of the Committees
 - 1. Operations, Personnel & Review Committee
 - 2. Finance & Investment Committee
 - 3. Special Committee
 - D. Report of the Investment Director (Deputy Administrator)
 - 1. Status of Investments
 - 2. Report of the Housing Loan Program
 - E. Report of the Internal Auditor
 - V. LEGAL MATTERS
 - A. Reports of the Legal Counsel and Administrative Hearing Officer
 - 1. Report of the Board Counsel
 - a) Lawsuit
 - b) Other Legal Matters
 - 2. Report of the In-House Counsel
 - a) Update on Administrative Appeals
 - 3. Report of the Hearing Officer
 - VI. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. MHL Program (Reopen Status)
 - B. MHL - Bank Pacific
 - C. RFP 10-002 Investment Consultant
 - D. NMIRF Case No. 07-005
 - VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Committee Officers/Members Appointment
 - B. Delegation of Authority
 - C. Case No. SPN-2000-558
 - D. Certified Public Plan Policy
 - E. Preparation of 2008 Actuarial Report
 - VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - VIII. MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER MATTERS
 - A. Announcements
 - B. Next Meeting
 - C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - a. Adoption of Minutes – April 29, 2010
- II. Public Comments
- III. Committee Reports
 - 1. Finance
 - a. FY 2009 Audit Report
 - 2. Personnel
 - 3. Ad Hoc Reports
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
 - 1. Offshore Offices
 - 2. FY 2010 Budget
- VI. Executive Session
- VII. Adjournment

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Acting Chair, MVA Board of Directors

Science & Technology

Microsoft upgrade aims to make Hotmail cool again

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft Corp. is trying to make Hotmail cool again.

The free Web mail service soon will be switching to a new approach that Microsoft hopes will give Hotmail an edge over rival offerings from Yahoo Inc. and Google Inc.

The upgrade, expected to

be available in July or August, will automatically sort incoming messages into different categories devoted to users' key contacts and Internet social networks. It will also provide previews of incoming photos, videos and other material without having to open an attachment or click on a link.

Other tools are being added to make it less cumbersome to send photos, videos, documents and other attachments to e-mail recipients. Another tweak is supposed to make it easier to sync Hotmail on mobile phones.

It's all part of the most extensive overhaul to Hotmail since Microsoft bought the service 12 years ago, said Chris Jones,

a Microsoft executive who is overseeing the renovations.

"Our service wasn't doing the best job that it could," Jones said during a Monday preview of the makeover.

The new features are supposed to enable people to spend less time managing their inboxes and more time enjoying and digesting what's in the messages.

Microsoft is hoping the added convenience will help overcome the perception that Hotmail was growing stale as Google and Yahoo added more bells and whistles to their free Web mail services.

Even as it made relatively few changes, Hotmail remained the world's most used service with 360 million users, according to statistics compiled by comScore

Inc. Yahoo ranks second globally with about 284 million users followed by Google's Gmail at 173 million users.

Now Microsoft thinks it might have shot of supplanting Yahoo as the top Web mail service in the U.S. (Yahoo's e-mail service has 95 million U.S. users compared to 47 million for Hotmail and 43 million for Gmail, according to comScore).

Google to polish Chrome browser with apps store

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. will open a Web applications store later this year in an attempt to make it easier to find and set up programs within the Internet search leader's Chrome browser.

The online store, previewed Wednesday during a Google conference for software programmers, appears to be ideally suited for the lightweight laptops called "netbooks" that will rely on an operating system revolving around the Chrome browser. The Chrome OS netbooks won't have hard drives and will need Internet access to run applications.

These inexpensive computers are scheduled to be on store shelves in time for the holiday shopping season.

Google didn't specify a precise date for the opening of its new applications, or "apps," store, saying only that it will be accessible to the more than 70 million users of the Chrome browser before the end of the year. The company already operates an apps

store for its Andriod software that powers a wide variety of smart phones.

Bigger news is likely to come Thursday at Google's developers conference. That's when the company is expected to announce it is working with Sony Corp., Intel Corp. and Logitech International to make it easier to search and view the Web on flat-panel televisions.

The Internet-connected televisions are expected to rely on Android as an operating system and use Chrome as its browser.

Although it has steadily grown in popularity since its 2008 debut, the Chrome browser still ranks far behind Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer and also trails Mozilla's Firefox.

Google's Web apps store also could provide fodder for a tablet computer to compete with Apple's iPad. Verizon has acknowledged it is working with Google on an iPad alternative, although Google has said little about that effort.



AP In this photo taken Tuesday, May 18, 2010, robot vehicle Forbot, of the German company Roboterwerk, is presented during the European Land Robot show in Hammelburg, southern Germany.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DOC-098**

CLOSING DATE: JUNE 10, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR POWERED LED SCHOOL ZONE AND PEDESTRIAN CROSS-WALK FLASHER/BEACON FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN"

COPIES OF THE BID PACKAGE CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE QUICK PRINT AND POST FOR A NOMINAL REPRODUCTION FEE, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS ON OR AFTER MAY 10, 2010.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CONFERENCE ROOM, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN ON TUESDAY, MAY 25TH, 2010 BEGINNING AT 10 AM.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/S/ MICHAEL J. ADA /S/ MARTIN C. SABLON /S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE SECRETARY OF DPW DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DOC-103**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 15, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR AN ARCHIVE HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 02, 2010 AT 10:00 A.M.** ON THE 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUILDING IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND ADDRESSED TO MR. IVAN A. BLANCO, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICS DIVISION VIA FAX TO (670) 664-3067 OR EMAIL TO director.csd@commerce.gov.mp NO LATER THAN **FRIDAY, JUNE 04, 2010, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ MICHAEL J. ADA /S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE DIRECTOR, P&S

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**
Tel. (670) 234-8866, 234-9447, 234-7889, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 003 D 02 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 2), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 689, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be \$90,000.00.

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 11, 2010, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, Auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - to withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby;
 - to reject any and all bids.
- Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 300514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
- Deposit:** Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
- Change of Terms:** Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2010.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Office of the Governor and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), will be conducting a Public Hearing on May 21, 2010, at 9am in the NMHC Conference Room at Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments from interested members in the community concerning the proposed Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) that specifies the criteria to evaluate and allocate credits for US Income Taxes to qualified projects that provide affordable housing under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) pursuant to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States.

Copies of the proposed QAP will be available as of the date of this publication for review and comment at the office of NMHC on Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950.

For more information regarding this program, please contact Joshua Sasamoto at (670) 234-6866.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

Island Snapshots



HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING

Members of the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife took testimony Tuesday on the implementation of federal immigration law in the Northern Mariana Islands. From left to right: Republican Robert Wittman (VA), and Democrats Chairwoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (GU), Dale Kildee (MI), Eni Faleomavaega (AS), Kilili Sablan (MP) and Donna Christensen (VI) and their staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday greetings go out to James "JJ" Diaz Magofna, shown here with sister-in-law Eleanor A. Cepeda, who celebrated his birthday on Wednesday, May 19, 2010. May lots of blessings go your way. Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CNMI DELEGATION

Jim Beighley of Duty Free Shoppers, Guam and Northern Marianas legislators Paul A. Manglona, Fred Deleon Guerrero, Jude Hofsneider, and Diego Benavente were among those at Tuesday's hearing of the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife in Washington D.C. on the implementation of federal immigration law in the Northern Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MACARTHUR LEADERSHIP AWARDEE

Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) was the special guest of Bobbie Buniag and her husband, Capt. Alejandro L. Buniag Jr., at a ceremony where Capt. Buniag received the Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award at the Pentagon this week. Captain Buniag is from Saipan and is currently in command of the 797th Engineer Company, part of the 9th Mission Support Command of the U.S. Army Reserve. The MacArthur Award recognizes company grade warrant officers and commissioned officers in the Active Army, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve who exemplify the ideals for which Gen. Douglas MacArthur stood for: duty, honor, country. Buniag received a 15-lb engraved bust of Gen. MacArthur from Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., Chief of Staff of the Army.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jamel Aldan Magofna, who's celebrating her 7th birthday today, May 21, 2010! Happy birthday Melly and may you have many more birthdays to come, with many more blessings going your way. We love you very much. Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our beloved mother, Jessica CH. Basa! Also, congratulations on your achievements! We are very proud of you, Mom, so just keep on keeping on! Greetings come from your kids and your grandkids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 1st birthday to Khloe Elise Borja Buniag! Love, Mommy, Daddy, Grandma Lita, Grandpa Alex, Kuya Julian and the familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late **BERNADITA DELA CRUZ ATALIG MANGLONA**, invite all our relatives and friends to join us to commemorate the First Death Anniversary of our beloved wife and mother.

Daily mass is being offered beginning Saturday, May 22, 2010, at

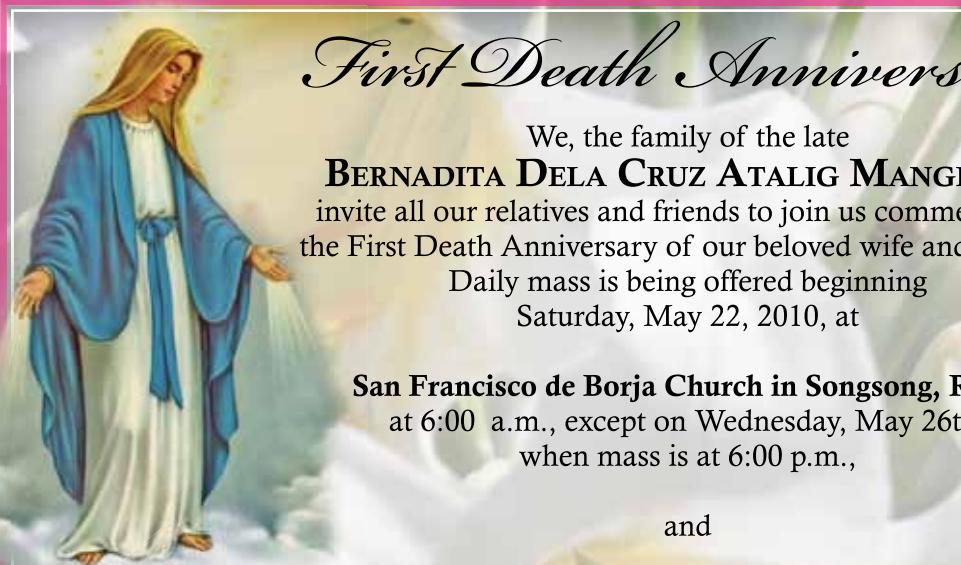
San Francisco de Borja Church in Songsong, Rota,
at 6:00 a.m., except on Wednesday, May 26th,
when mass is at 6:00 p.m.,

and

San Isidro Church in Sinapalo, Rota
at 7:00 p.m., except on Sunday, May 23rd,
when mass is at 8:00 a.m.

On the final day, Sunday, May 30, 2010, the mass at both churches will be at 6:00 a.m. followed by the *Responsu* at San Jose Cemetery. Breakfast will follow immediately at the San Francisco de Borja Roundhouse. We are forever grateful for all your prayers and support.

PRUDENCIO T. MANGLONA AND CHILDREN
(Vincent and Benita, Paul and Lydia, John and Mona, Charles and Lorna, Pres and Lee, Prudencio Jr. and Sharon, and Thomas and Pat)




Happy, happy birthday greetings going out to an extraordinary woman, Ms. Kinai DLG. Chong, who is celebrating her birthday, today, Friday, May 21! May you have a magnificent and glorious day! Much love, coming from your husband, children, your Kumoi, Chong, and Blue Marlin familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life & Style

DeWyze, Bowersox left to duel on 'Idol' finale

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Casey James was cut Wednesday from "American Idol," leaving Crystal Bowersox and Lee DeWyze to duke it out in the finale of the popular Fox singing competition next week.

James, the long-haired 27-year-old musician from Fort Worth, Texas, was revealed to have received the fewest viewer votes after his ho-hum performances Tuesday.

"I can't believe it, man," gushed James. "I'm so thankful for the opportunity."

James consistently gratified the judges throughout the contest with his bluesy stylings but never seemed to wow the panel, except the time when Kara DioGuardi asked the hunky Texan to remove his shirt during his audition.



AP
American Idol's Crystal Bowersox of Elliston, Ohio, arrives on stage for a concert in downtown Toledo, Ohio on Friday, May 14, 2010.

But his fate seemed sealed Tuesday when Simon Cowell compared his rendition of Eric Hutchinson's "OK, It's Alright

With Me" to a salad.

James' departure means either Bowersox, the earthy 24-year-old musician from Toledo, Ohio, or DeWyze, the bashful 24-year-old paint sales clerk from Mount Prospect, Ill., will be crowned "Idol" next Wednesday.

DeWyze told host Ryan Seacrest that he's "never wanted to win more than I do right now," while Bowersox thanked the judges for their continued support.

"Everything that you guys have said has been helpful," beamed Bowersox.

The duo had long been considered to be the front-runners of the ninth season, never appearing as one of the show's bottom vote-getters. Bowersox solidified her finale spot Tuesday with Me-

lissa Etheridge's "Come To My Window" and Paul McCartney's "Maybe I'm Amazed," while DeWyze delighted with Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Simple Man" and Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

"It's just totally different than I would ever thought it would have been," DeWyze said of the experience.

The finale comes during a slump for the aging but popular Fox franchise. Seacrest revealed that more than 47 million votes were cast this week for Bowersox, DeWyze and James. At this point in the competition last year, the host announced more than 88 million votes were received for Danny Gokey, Adam Lambert and Kris Allen, who went on to win the eighth season.

Tighter security this time at Obama's state dinner

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House promised tighter security for Wednesday's state dinner—and it delivered.

Among the hundreds who lined up to get in, at least one woman was turned away for lack of proper ID.

Kathryne Mudge said her husband, Arturo Valenzuela, an assistant secretary of state, was supposed to bring the necessary identification.

"We tried to be extra careful, but my husband is the absent-minded professor," Mudge said.

Their evening wasn't spoiled, however.

Mudge and her husband returned about an hour later and were allowed into the affair that President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama held for their Mexican counterparts, Felipe Calderon and his wife, Margarita Zavala.

The White House promised to improve security after Obama's first state dinner was overshadowed by an uninvited husband-and-wife couple who somehow slipped through security and got close enough to the president to shake his hand.

As about 200 guests streamed



AP
President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama welcome Mexican President Felipe Calderon and his wife Margarita Zavala to the North Portico of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, May 19, 2010, for a State Dinner.

into the White House, the Obamas greeted Mexico's first couple on the North Portico. Mrs. Obama wore a one-shoulder, shimmery, cobalt blue floor-length gown, with a wide silver belt and dangling silvery earrings. Zavala wore a plum-colored, sleeveless gown with an Aztec-inspired blue border around the square neckline.

Among those with coveted invitations for the four-course dinner in the East Room were a celebrity contingent that included Whoopi Goldberg, Eva Longoria Parker, George Lopez and Olympic speedskater Shani Davis.

Goldberg said it felt like she was "coming home after a long drought." She said she'd been a frequent visitor during Bill Clinton's years, but not at all during

chocolate." Calderon, for his part, congratulated the American people "for having a president like Barack Obama," and Obama "for having a wife and first lady like Michelle Obama."

Longoria Parker talked policy, saying it was an important time to be holding such a dinner with Mexican leaders, given the hot temperatures over immigration right now.

"You can't have these states doing their own punitive laws," she insisted, referring to Arizona's tough new immigration law.

Obama and Calderon launched the dinner with a toast to the friendship between their nations. Obama, in toasting Mexico's contributions to the world, singled out "some very good food, including the food of the gods—

J.G. Farrell's 'Troubles' wins 'lost' Booker Prize

LONDON (AP)—A tragicomical historical novel about the relationship between Britain and Ireland won literature's prestigious Booker Prize on Wednesday, four decades after missing out because of a scheduling quirk.

J.G. Farrell's "Troubles" was awarded the "lost" Booker Prize for works published in 1970, a year when no prize was handed out. Set in 1919, the novel is about an English army officer ensconced in a crumbling Irish hotel, scarcely aware of the war for independence breaking out around him.

Farrell was chosen over five

other finalists: Patrick White's "The Vivisector," Mary Renault's "Fire From Heaven," Nina Bawden's "The Birds on the Trees," Shirley Hazzard's "The Bay of Noon" and Muriel Spark's "The Driver's Seat."

Farrell, who drowned while fishing on the Irish coast in 1979, also won the Booker in 1973 for "The Siege of Krishnapur." Those two novels—along with a later book, "The Singapore Grip"—form a trilogy exploring the end of the British Empire.

His brother, Richard Farrell, accepted the prize on his behalf Wednesday.

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Friday 4:10 7:30 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:30 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30

Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz
Comedy, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis
The wisecracking green-tinged ogre returns in *Shrek Forever After*, the newest installment in the successful DreamWorks Animation series. This will be the first time that the franchise will be presented in the IMAX format in addition to a normal big-screen rollout.



MacGruber

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Will Forte, Ryan Phillippe
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
Another Saturday Night Live skit makes the transition to the big screen with this Rogue Pictures production. Will Forte returns as MacGruber, a comedic spin on the '80s TV character MacGyver. Kristen Wiig, Val Kilmer, and Ryan Phillippe co-star.



Robin Hood

Friday 4:25 7:10 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:10 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:10

Russel Crowe, Cate Blanchett
Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Ridley Scott helms a script by *Sleepers* scribes Ethan Reiff and Cyrus Wodrich as they tackle this revisionist take on the Robin Hood legend, which finds the noble Sheriff of Nottingham attempting to deal with the exploits of a less than virtuous Robin Hood while gradually being drawn into a heated love triangle involving the legendary thief and the beautiful Maid Marion.



Letters to Juliet

Friday 4:05 7:20 9:45
Saturday 1:30 4:05 7:20 9:45
Sunday 1:30 4:05 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:20

Amanda Seyfried, Chris Egan
Comedy, Romance • Rated PG

Iron Man 2

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:20 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:20 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

Robert Downey, Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
Action • Rated PG 13



Furry Vengeance

Friday 4:30 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25

Brendan Fraser, Brooke Shields
Comedy, Children's/Family • Rated PG

The Last Song

Friday 4:20 7:05 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05

Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth
Drama • Rated PG

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Mom mistaken for a cougar resents the growls she gets

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm an athletic, youthful-looking 58, and my son, "Barry," is 24. We go out alone for dinner quite often because my husband (Barry's father) doesn't enjoy eating in restaurants. My problem is the angry stares my son and I get from younger—and older—women who mistake me for a "cougar" out on a date with my "cub."

The other night when I left our table to use the restroom, a woman approached Barry, told him he was "disgusting," and asked, "Why don't you date girls your own age?" He informed her that I was his mother, but even if I wasn't, it was none of her business. Another time, a girl Barry's age asked him why he was out with "an old hag" and said, "How can you want her over me?" This happens every time we go out.

I dress well and look like I could be in my 40s, but I have to wonder about the rudeness and ignorance of someone insulting my son without knowing the circumstances of the situation. Some of them refused to believe the truth even after Barry told them.

Interestingly, young men who have commented thought it was "awesome" that Barry could be out with a cougar. It's only the females who have a problem with us. Can you comment on this?

HAPPILY MARRIED MOM IN OHIO

DEAR MOM: Some thoughts do come to mind: Women who are happy in their personal lives don't approach strangers with snide remarks like those you have repeated. The women were rude, presumptuous, probably envious—and I'll bet they were also alone, because it's hard to imagine a woman with a date doing something so outrageous.

I'm not surprised that younger men might think it was "awesome" that your son could be out with a cougar. When the subject was raised in my column, the men who commented said what attracted them to older women was that they are confident, relaxed, comfortable with themselves and fun to be around—while younger women didn't bother to be subtle about their preference for men with money.

And one more thing: You must be quite a knockout to attract the kind of attention you're getting.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 19-year-old guy who doesn't know what I want to do with my life. I know I'm still young and shouldn't stress out about what my career in life will be, but nothing seems to interest me. I don't want to be a doctor or an astronomer like some do. I can't cook or play any instruments, and I'm not very good with numbers. I have thought of hundreds of careers—and I hate them all.

I don't want to do something I will hate for the rest of my life, but I'm afraid that's what will happen. I have been to three different counselors and none was able to help me. I'm hoping you can offer me some advice.

HOPELESS IN CHANDLER, ARIZ.

DEAR HOPELESS: You aren't the first person to panic because he (or she) is afraid of being stuck in a career slot that doesn't fit. The good news is one of the realities of today's workplace is that in many cases, jobs no longer last a lifetime. Workers can expect to change jobs and be retrained several times—or more—during their working years. I hope this relieves some of your anxiety.

Although you have decided what jobs do not interest you, nowhere have you mentioned any areas in which you excel. For that reason I'm advising you to go to your nearest community college career counseling center and ask to take some aptitude tests. People usually enjoy doing something they're good at.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Megan Fox dropped from third 'Transformers'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Megan Fox, who made her name as Shia LaBeouf's sultry love interest in the first two "Transformers" movies, has been dropped from the third.

Paramount Pictures said Wednesday that Fox's option was not picked up for part three in the blockbuster Michael Bay series. The studio, which released the first two movies about shape-shifting machines doing battle, declined to give further details or say who would replace the 24-year-old actress.

Fox's publicist, Dominique Appel, did not return a message left at her office seeking comment.

Fox, notorious for making attention-grabbing comments to the media, engaged in a public spat with director Bay around the release of part two last summer. But Bay later defended her and said he looked forward to



In this Sunday, June 14, 2009 picture, actors Megan Fox, left, and Shia LaBeouf arrive for the German premiere of their movie 'Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen', in Berlin.

working with her on part three.

In announcing "Transformers 3" in October on his blog, <http://www.michaelbay.com>, he

wrote: "P.S. Megan Fox, welcome back. I promise no alien robots will harm you in any way during the production of this motion picture."

"Transformers" from 2007 and the 2009 sequel "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" have made more than \$1.5 billion worldwide. Production is scheduled to begin this month on the third installment, with a release date set for July 1, 2011, Paramount said.

Fox also starred last year as the title character in "Jennifer's Body," playing a possessed cheerleader who preys on high school boys. The movie, written by Oscar-winning "Juno" writer Diablo Cody, made a disappointing \$16.2 million domestically.

Next, Fox will star opposite Josh Brolin and John Malkovich in the supernatural Western "Jonah Hex," scheduled for release June 18.

Attorney: Lohan stuck in Cannes, won't be in court

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An attorney for Lindsay Lohan says the actress will miss a mandatory court appearance Thursday because she is stuck in France.

Attorney Shawn Chapman Holley says Lohan's passport was stolen while she was at the Cannes Film Festival. Holley told ABC7 that Lohan has an appointment Thursday at the American embassy to have the passport replaced.

Holley did not respond to telephone and e-mail messages left by The Associated Press Wednesday.

Superior Court Judge Marsha Revel ordered Lohan, 23, to appear in a Beverly Hills courtroom for a progress report on her

probation stemming from two arrests in 2007. Revel could issue a bench warrant for Lohan's arrest for missing the hearing—standard procedure when someone skips a court date.

Lohan has been on probation since pleading guilty in August 2007 to two misdemeanor counts of being under the influence of cocaine; no contest to two counts of driving with a blood-alcohol level above 0.08 percent and one count of reckless driving. The plea came after a pair of high-profile arrests earlier that year.

Despite spending 84 minutes in jail and performing mandatory service at the county morgue, Lohan has repeatedly struggled with the terms of her sentence.

In October, a judge extended her probation for another year but a prosecutor warned the actress she was facing jail time if she violated her probation.

The extension was the third time Lohan escaped punishment after her alcohol-education program notified the court the actress had violated its rules. Two of the instances were described as misunderstandings; the third was chalked up to a busy work schedule.

In February, Superior Court Judge Marsha Revel said Lohan was making "good progress" toward completing her probation. Court records do not indicate that Lohan has ever failed a drug or alcohol test.

Conan O'Brien headlines Turner's TBS sales pitch

NEW YORK (AP)—Conan O'Brien told a concert hall filled with advertisers Wednesday that he envisioned his new TBS talk show would "pick up where 'Hee Haw' left off."

"I have a hunch that 32-year-old men want to hear corny jokes and classic country music," said O'Brien, who strapped on a guitar and played a personalized version of "On the Road Again."

He was joking, of course.

O'Brien, whose show starts in November, was the star attraction as Turner Entertainment Networks outlined its programming plans. The comic said it was his first time back in New

York since NBC brought him in a year ago to promote his takeover of the "Tonight" show.

Most of his fans know how that went: he lasted half a year before leaving rather than move his time slot to accommodate Jay Leno.

"If anyone in the room can explain what happened a few months ago, I'm all ears," he said. "I'll be in the lobby later. The plot to 'Lost' is more plausible."

His appearance opened with a short film where a fat, disheveled O'Brien is passed out amid pizza slices and beer bottles, answering a ringing phone with one word, "Job?"

He said the live concert tour

that he is currently on is his happiest experience in 20 years of show business.

"I can't wait to get back to having fun on television again," he said. "It's all I want to do."

His new boss, Turner networks chief Steve Koonin, said he wanted to thank an NBC employee for giving his company two of its best shows: O'Brien's and the police drama "Southland." A picture of Leno flashed on the large screen behind him. NBC gave up on "Southland" after one season, in part because the 10 p.m. time slot it filled was instead given to Leno in his failed prime-time experiment.

Argentine rocker Cerati in critical condition

CARACAS, VENEZUELA (AP)—Argentine rock star Gustavo Cerati was in intensive care Wednesday after undergoing brain surgery for a potentially fatal blood clot.

The 50-year-old former singer of the Argentine band Soda Stereo suffered a stroke Saturday when he fainted at the end of a concert, said Vladimir Fumayor, one of his doctors.

Hospital director Adolfo

Saez described it Tuesday as a transient ischemic attack, often called a mini-stroke, in which blood flow is reduced and prevents the brain from functioning properly. Cerati underwent surgery Tuesday, and since then "he has remained in critical condition receiving the appropriate treatment," Saez told reporters Wednesday.

He said earlier that the surgery opened a "window to allow the

pressure to diminish and prevent the brain stem from swelling, which could cause death." Saez told reporters it was premature to predict Cerati's recovery, saying: "The first 72 hours are critical."

A group of Argentine doctors was expected to arrive in Venezuela and evaluate Cerati on Thursday, said Santiago Otero, president of Evenpro, the entertainment company that organized Cerati's concert.

Octomom puts pet birth control sign on her door

LA HABRA, Calif. (AP)—It's official. Octomom Nadya Suleman doesn't want your dog or cat following in her footsteps. As a front yard full of paparazzi cheered her on, Suleman unveiled a 3-foot-by-4-foot plastic sign Wednesday that reads: "Don't Let Your Dog or Cat Become an Octomom. Always Spay or Neuter."

"Turn left. Pose. Smile, Nadya," photographers jockeying for position shouted as Suleman stood in front of the sign.

A few curious onlookers stopped to watch as a People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals mascot (a person in a dog suit) gave her a hug.

PETA is paying Suleman \$5,000 to keep the sign on her front door until June 9, the deadline when city officials say it must be removed. The organization is also throwing in a month's supply of veggie hot dogs and burgers for her and her 14 children.

Suleman, 34, acknowledged she put the sign on her door partly for the money but added her support of PETA is sincere.

"I love animals and I do believe they should be spayed or neutered," she said. "Humans of course are much different."

Her children, the oldest of whom is 9, want a dog, Suleman said. She told them they can have one when they are old enough to care for it.

Suleman already had six children when she gave birth 16 months ago to octuplets conceived by in vitro fertilization.

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	\$57

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Supreme Court is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL – Tinian, Marshal Service Unit

REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or other related field of study.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: Candidate must possess a valid CNMI driver's license and current police and traffic clearances.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be negotiable.

Interested persons should submit their resume and complete OPM application to the Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan. For additional information about the position and a detailed job description, see <http://www.justice.gov.mp> or call (670) 236-9716 or 236-9800. Resume and application must be received by 12:00 noon on May 21, 2010.

This project is supported in part by Grant Number 2009-SB-B9-0008 (FY09 Northern Mariana Island Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program (dependent on the availability of funds) awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and the CNMI Government, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Corrections Program Office, Office of Juvenile Justice, and Delinquency Prevention, Office for Victims of Crime and Violence Against Women. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the CJPA Supervisory Council.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: Friday 5/14/10 Closing Date: Thursday 5/27/10

JVA No. Position Title Position(s) *Salary Contract Location

10-021 Trades Assistant Three \$11,036 Two-years Admin./Radio Control, Saipan

Opening Date: Friday 5/14/10 Closing Date: Until Filled

JVA No. Position Title Position(s) *Salary Contract Location

10-022 In-House Legal Counsel One **UNG Two-years Admin./Legal, Saipan

*For more information about the position(s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the Human Resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building. **Salary commensurate to experience.

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CLOSING DATE: MAY 28, 2010

CLOSING DATE: UNTIL FILLED

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- Korean Chef — will be responsible for: the culinary production of Korean dishes; be involved in preparation of all Korean menus; prepare Korean food as expected for the guest and provide catering services for functions and events; knowledgeable in Korean Culinary Arts, must have experience in Korean cuisines and food service operation; A minimum of three years experience with culinary and kitchen supervision is preferred.

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Saipan Tribune



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
 P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
 HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2010-021**

Pay Level/Step: **24/26/28/30**

Opening Date: **May 12, 2010**

Closing Date: **May 26, 2010**

Location: **PSS - Procurement & Supply Office**

Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays)

Qualification Requirements:

Procurement Specialist I - Graduation from an accredited college or university with a BA degree, plus one (1) year work related experience OR High School Diploma, plus five (5) years work related experience.

Procurement Specialist II - Graduation from an accredited college or university with a BA degree, plus one (2) year work related experience OR High School Diploma, plus five (6) years work related experience.

Procurement Specialist III - Graduation from an accredited college or university with a BA degree, plus one (3) year work related experience OR High School Diploma, plus five (7) years work related experience.

Procurement Specialist IV - Graduation from an accredited college or university with a BA degree, plus one (4) year work related experience OR High School Diploma, plus five (8) years work related experience.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE). COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #: (670) 237-3051, FAX #: (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT <http://www.cnmpss.org/humanresources> ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Position Title: **PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST I-IV**

Per Annum Salary: **\$16,858.38-\$28,807.51**

REQUEST for PROPOSALS MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST RFP #10-02

INVESTMENT in a LOCAL HIGH YIELD PORTFOLIO EXTENDED

This is a request for any and all investment proposals from interested parties or firms seeking capital sources or funding for projects or ventures within the CNMI.

MPLT Board of Trustees has recently updated its Asset Allocation and determined that a percentage (5%) of its total investment portfolio (\$3.137 million) shall be devoted to a local investment program. This local investment program will be designated as high yield investments since the associated risks are much higher than those of publicly traded investment grade securities. The reasons for this are as follows:

- Challenges to obtaining sufficient capital for projects or ventures.
- Associated promissory notes cannot be traded or sold thus have no liquidity.
- Associated promissory notes are not rated and considered less than investment grade.
- Often the local private or public sector proposer's ability to repay the loan is challenged.
- Credit rating for such borrowers is often low.
- Ability to raise capital or obtain credit is limited.
- Maximum exposure for each investment cannot be controlled.
- Sufficient collateral beyond those acquired with loan proceed is limited.

As a high yield investment, MPLT may limit the duration to a preferred five years term but longer term may be considered. This is **not** a low-income or low interest rate program. Interest rates will be determined based upon risk and duration. Due to the higher risks associated with this type of investment, a risk premium will be added to the base interest rate.

Proposal information and guidelines under this program can be obtained at the MPLT Office as shown below. Further, as part of the fee, MPLT shall include fees for servicing costs, legal review fees, consult review fees. Therefore, each applicant shall be charged a non-refundable application fee of \$500 by Cashier's Check or Money Order, due upon submission of the application. Each proposer shall agree to and shall pay an origination fee of 1% on the approved investment amount, for the closing/administrative costs for any approved proposal.

Eight (8) copies plus one original of the sealed proposals must be submitted to the MPLT Office, Government Building #1313, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 2:00 PM, on **May 26, 2010**. Proposals must be sealed and marked "Local High Yield Investment Program, RFP 10-02". Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The MPLT reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in its best interests. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the MPLT.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long
 Chairman



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Division of Labor



Second Floor Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
 Telephone no. (670) 236-0907 or 0911 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0992

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR HEARING

Friday, May 14, 2010, First Notice

Friday, May 21, 2010, Second Notice

The Employee and Employer is hereby notified to report to the Department of Labor, Administrative Hearing Office, 2nd Floor, Afetnas Square Building, San Antonio, Saipan for a hearing to address the matter of the complaint. This notice will serve as a "Proof of Service of this Notice of Hearing". For information, please contact Investigator Jeffrey T. Camacho at 236-0900 ext. 243.

Employee	Employer	Case Number	Date/Time
He, Yuxiang	Md Abu B.S. Munshi	CAC#09-008-01	5/25/2010 at 1PM
Montano, Bernardo	ISA Enterprises	CAC#10-184-02	5/25/2010 at 1PM
Baconawa, Eduardo	G.C.G. & Company	CAC#10-186-02	5/25/2010 at 1PM
De Guzman, Romeo	Aguon, Antonio	CAC#10-189-02	5/25/2010 at 1PM
Pamfilo, Natty	Woo Jung Corp.	CAC#10-324-03	5/25/2010 at 1PM
Formalejo, Ma. Dolor	Micronesia Health Corp.	CAC#10-346-03	5/25/2010 at 1PM
Tambiga, Ma. Cristina	ASG Corporation	CAC#10-352-03	5/25/2010 at 1PM
Bangilan, Elsa	Marianas Fastfoods, Inc.	CAC#10-353-03	5/25/2010 at 1PM
Yin, Hu	Tasi Tours & Trans.	CAC#10-364-04	5/25/2010 at 1PM
Balina, Jeffrey T.	G4S Security Services	CAC#10-381-05	5/25/2010 at 1PM
Adelan, George B.	Tropical Gardens, Inc.	CAC#10-382-05	5/25/2010 at 1PM
Alternado, Ma. Luisa	Joseph Co. Ltd.	CAC#10-384-05	5/25/2010 at 1PM

Failure to appear on the scheduled date may result in an Administrative Order being entered against you.

Dated this 5th day of May 2010.

/s/ By: Jeffrey T. Camacho
 Enforcement, OIC



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
 Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
 Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction various furniture and equipments from the Pacific Gardenia Hotel on Saturday, May 22, 2010.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL** on **Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.**
4. Full payment is required before items can be removed from the premises and Buyer is responsible for removing purchased items;
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card - minimum \$100 (MC and Visa only) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale.



The hotel will be open for inspection on Thursday and Friday, May 20 and 21 from 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

/S/ **MANUEL A. SABLÁN**
 Executive Director

Lakers hold off Suns, take 2-0 series lead



LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers are halfway to another NBA finals, and their fans already know who they want their dominant defending champions to play next.

Pau Gasol scored 14 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter, Kobe Bryant had 21 points and 13 assists, and the Lakers roared away in the final minutes for a 124-112 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night to claim a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

Ron Artest scored 18 points for the Lakers, who won their eighth straight playoff game and moved within striking distance of a tantalizing NBA finals showdown with the Boston Celtics, who lead Orlando 2-0 in the East. For the second straight game, the chants rained down from the Staples Center crowd in the final minutes: "We want Boston!"

The Lakers remained unbeaten at home in the postseason despite a much-improved effort from the Suns, who lost the opener by 21 points. Phoenix tied it at 90-all heading to the final period of Game 2, but Gasol and Bryant flawlessly led the Lakers to another high-scoring victory, handing third-seeded Phoenix its first back-to-back losses since late January.

"We've been able to play both styles of basketball," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "We like to control the pace, but we feel comfortable if it's an accelerated pace."

The Lakers certainly seem to be accelerating the Suns' exit from the playoffs after hitting better than 57 percent of their shots and scoring a jaw-dropping 252 points in the first two games.

Game 3 is Sunday night in Phoenix. But unless the Suns figure out a way to stop Los Angeles' versatile, poised offense, Beantown and Hollywood could be just a few days away from another chapter in their storied rivalry.

"We can't slow them down," Phoenix coach Alvin Gentry said. "I thought we played well offensively, but every time we tried to make an adjustment to slow them down offensively, they would go somewhere else. There's a good reason they're the world champs, but we'll keep plugging away, keep trying."

The Lakers have lost only one best-of-seven playoff series in franchise history after taking a 2-0 lead, winning the other 41. The 15-time champions haven't won eight straight games in the same postseason since



AP
Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol, right, drives to the basket over Phoenix Suns forward Jared Dudley during the second of Game 2 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals in Los Angeles, Wednesday, May 19, 2010.

Pacman Jones says he'll show he has changed



CINCINNATI (AP)—Adam "Pacman" Jones didn't even try to put a positive spin on his year away from football.

The cornerback who entered the NFL with such promise in 2005 spent all last season trying to get back into the game, looking for someone—anyone—who would give him another chance. For a while, it looked like that chance might not come.

"It was miserable," he said.

Miserable enough to make him learn anything?

The 26-year-old Jones said Wednesday that he has changed his lifestyle and reordered his priorities in the past year, the result of much soul-searching while

he was outside the NFL. The Cincinnati Bengals gave him a two-year deal that represents what could be his final chance to prove it.

During his first interview session in town Wednesday, Jones told reporters that he no longer hangs around with the same people who helped him get into trouble after he was Tennessee's first-round pick in 2005. He recognized that a lot of things had to change.

"Of course, you change as you grow," Jones said. "Like I said, it ain't overnight. I'm 26 years old now, so I can't do the same things I was doing at 21, or I'm going to be dead or in jail. I know what my passion is, and my passion is football. I know what I've got to do to keep playing

football, and that's what I'm working on doing."

Jones signed last week, but chose to stick with a 58-second statement when he got to town for his first workout. He took questions after a voluntary practice Wednesday, answering all but one.

He moved into a wooden locker at one end of the football-shaped room, mixed in among defensive linemen. Receiver Chris Henry's former locker was across the room—Jones faced in that direction while he took questions for 14 minutes.

Henry and Jones were teammates at West Virginia and kept in touch. They became the NFL's poster boys for misconduct, both getting arrested

their famous one-loss run through the 2001 playoffs.

"We still scored enough points tonight, but when they can score 120-something, that's asking the offense to score too much," said Phoenix's Steve Nash, who had 11 points and 15 assists. "If we're going to beat them, we've got to find a way to slow them down."

The crowd enthusiastically booed Amare Stoudemire, who on Tuesday belittled Lamar Odom's 19-point, 19-rebound performance in the opener as "a lucky game." Stoudemire appeared determined to back up his words with aggression, finishing with 18 points and six rebounds while Odom had 17 points and 11 boards in another superb game off the bench.

Grant Hill scored 14 of his 23 points in the third quarter while Phoenix erased a 14-point deficit, playing with more efficiency and aggression than in Game 1. But the Lakers went back ahead by 11 midway through the fourth with a 9-0 run, and the Suns couldn't stop Bryant and Gasol from executing their two-man game to perfection.

"I was being effective and just finishing plays," Gasol said. "We just continued to go to it because it was working pretty well for us."

Although Bryant's streak of six straight 30-point games ended, last season's NBA finals MVP set up Gasol for two tough baskets in the final minutes, with Gasol scoring with a flourish and drawing a foul each time. After scoring 40 points in 35 minutes in the series opener, Bryant embraced being a creator, repeatedly finding his teammates out of double teams while setting a career high for assists in a playoff game.

Jason Richardson scored 27 points for Phoenix, and Jared Dudley hit five 3-pointers before fouling out.

Los Angeles led 65-56 at halftime, hitting better than 57 percent of its shots after making 58 percent in Game 1. Bryant had 11 points and nine assists, repeatedly making the Suns pay for double teams.

But the Suns roared back in the third, hitting 14 of 22 shots with Hill's 14 points and 12 from Richardson, who thrived against Artest's defense.

Lakers center Andrew Bynum appeared to be moving more fluidly, scoring 11 of his 13 points in the first half—more than he managed in the previous three games combined, when his injured right knee began hindering him.

NBA BRIEFS

Prokhorov says GM Vandeweghe won't return to team

NEW YORK (AP)—New Jersey Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov says general manager Kiki Vandeweghe will be let go when his contract expires this summer. "I wish him well," says Prokhorov. NBA owners approved the sale of the Nets to the Russian billionaire last week. Prokhorov says Wednesday he does plan to retain team president Rod Thorn. New Jersey finished 12-70, the franchise's worst record and only the fifth 70-loss season in league history. Vandeweghe was the interim coach after the Nets fired Lawrence Frank during their 0-18 start, but was only expected to coach until the season ended. On Tuesday, the Nets were forced to settle for the third pick in next month's draft despite having the best chance to win the lottery.

Celtics guard's stepfather arrested, stun gun used

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The stepfather of Boston Celtics guard Marquis Daniels was arrested and subdued with a stun gun during Game 2 of the Eastern Conference finals against the Orlando Magic. The Orlando police report shows 55-year-old Willie L. Buie was charged with resisting arrest with violence during Tuesday night's game. Celtics spokesman Jeff Twiss confirmed it was Daniels' stepfather. Officers responded to a disturbance in a lower-level section during the second half. Police say they tried to escort Buie from his seat, but he refused, using expletives at officers and swinging his arms free. He eventually was escorted out near a security office but kept his hands under his body to avoid handcuffs. That's when police say an officer used a stun gun on Buie's back for about 5 seconds.

NBA player Chandler charged with drug possession

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Knicks swingman Wilson Chandler was charged Wednesday with a minor drug offense after police said they found marijuana in his car during a traffic stop. Police stopped Chandler at a corner in Queens on Tuesday night around 11:15 p.m. for driving his Mercedes Benz with the headlights off. When officers approached the car, they smelled marijuana, police said. A passenger in the front seat, Lamonte Yarbrough, admitted to the officers he had been smoking pot, police said. The officers recovered a plastic bag of marijuana from the console inside the car and five other small plastic bags from the trunk, weighing under 2 ounces in total, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said. Chandler, 23, and Yarbrough, 22, were charged with 5th degree criminal possession of marijuana, a misdemeanor. They were given desk appearance tickets and must appear in court July 1. They were not taken into police custody.

Padres end Dodgers winning streak



LOS ANGELES
(AP)—Adrian Gonzalez homered and

had a career-high six RBIs as the San Diego Padres beat Los Angeles 10-5 in the National League on Wednesday, putting an emphatic end to the Dodgers' nine-game winning streak.

Will Venable had four hits including a triple and two doubles for the NL West-leading Padres.

San Diego starter Jon Garland (5-2) allowed four runs in five innings. The right-hander, 5-0 with a 1.67 ERA over his last six starts, made six starts for the Dodgers last September.

Los Angeles' Ramon Ortiz (1-2), who was making his second start out of the bullpen because of injuries, took the loss.

Marlins 5, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Hanley Ramirez returned to the Marlins' lineup with three hits as Florida downed St. Louis.

Ramirez was yanked from Monday's game for loafing and benched Tuesday after criticizing the manager and teammates. He apologized individually to his teammates before the game.

Ramirez was booed before three of his first four at-bats. The reigning NL batting champion answered with three singles, two of them infield hits, and drove in a run.

Cubs 4, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Tom Gorzelanny threw 6 2-3 shutout innings to steer Chicago past Philadelphia.

Gorzelanny kept the Phillies off balance until he was struck by Carlos

Ruiz's line drive in the seventh inning. He left and had x-rays which revealed no break to his left ring finger.

Starlin Castro and Jeff Baker had RBI singles to lead the Cubs to their fourth straight win.

Braves 5, Reds 4

In Atlanta, Jason Heyward hit an RBI double with two outs in the ninth inning, giving Atlanta an answer to another Cincinnati comeback.

Heyward doubled twice and also hit his first major league triple. The rookie helped the Braves end Cincinnati's four-game winning streak.

Atlanta blew a four-run lead in the final two innings before recovering. Martin Prado singled with two outs in the ninth off Nick Masset (3-2) and scored on Heyward's double to right field.

Nationals 5, Mets 3

In Washington, Angel Pagan hit an inside-the-park home run and started a triple play but that wasn't enough for New York in a loss to Washington.

It was the first time in 55 years that an individual, and a team had performed both feats in the same game.

Diamondbacks 13, Giants 1

In Phoenix, Adam LaRoche hit two of Arizona's six home runs in a rout of San Francisco.

Kelly Johnson hit his NL-high 12th homer while Justin Upton, Stephen Drew, and Chris Snyder also went deep for the Diamondbacks, who matched the franchise record for homers in a game.

LaRoche finished with four RBIs and Drew and Snyder each had three for Arizona, which ended a six-game home losing streak.

Pirates 6, Brewers 4

In Pittsburgh, Ryan Doumit drove in the go-ahead run as Pittsburgh ran Milwaukee's losing skid to nine.

Steve Pearce added his third hit during Pittsburgh's three-run seventh inning.

The Brewers are stuck in their longest slide since losing 10 straight late in the 2006 season.

The NL Central rivals played in Pittsburgh for the first time since Milwaukee's 20-0 win last month—the worst loss in Pirates history.

Astros 7, Rockies 3

In Houston, Cory Sullivan hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning as Houston snapped a run of five losses and beat Colorado.

Sullivan broke a 3-3 tie with a two-out single off Esmil Rogers (0-2). Tommy Manzella then reached on Colorado's second error, Michael Bourn was intentionally walked to load the bases and Jeff Keppinger hit a three-run double to leftfield.

Rays 10, Yankees 6

In New York, Jason Bartlett hit a lead-off homer for Tampa Bay to put the Rays on course for a victory over the New York Yankees.

Evan Longoria had three hits and two RBIs, sending the AL East leaders to their fifth straight win. Tampa Bay stole six bases against New York

starting pitcher A.J. Burnett (4-2)—four in a four-run fourth inning—and improved to 29-11, the best record for a big league team after 40 games since Boston had the same mark in 2002.

Red Sox 3, Twins 2

In Boston, Clay Buchholz gave Boston's struggling rotation a lift, steering the Red Sox over Minnesota.

Buchholz (5-3) allowed two runs in eight-plus innings. Since his previous start, four other Boston starters had allowed at least four runs in their outings.

Tigers 5, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Justin Verlander carried a shutout bid into the eighth inning, leading Detroit over Oakland.

Verlander (5-2) struck out five and walked one while winning his fourth straight start. He retired 14 of 15 batters during one stretch.

Casper Wells, a late addition to Detroit's lineup when right fielder Magglio Ordonez withdrew, had a two-run double. He singled in the third for his first major league hit.

Blue Jays 3, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Brett Cecil pitched into the seventh inning as Toronto inflicted Seattle's fifth straight loss.

Cecil (3-2), who started the season in the minors, allowed two runs in 6 1-3 innings.

In the bottom of the ninth, Blue Jays closer Kevin Gregg retired Ken Griffey Jr. and Ichiro Suzuki before a walk and a single put two runners on base. Mike Sweeney flied out to left center to end

it, giving Gregg his AL-leading 12th save in 13 chances.

Rangers 4, Orioles 3

In Arlington, Nelson Cruz hit a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth to finally give Texas victory over Baltimore.

Michael Young led off the ninth against Cla Meredith (0-1) with his third hit. Two walks loaded the bases before Cruz's flyball to center off Jason Berken drove in the winner.

Earlier, Texas' Josh Hamilton led off the fourth with a shot that clearly went over the fence in left and ricocheted back into play, but the second base umpire signaled that the ball was still in play and Hamilton stopped with a double.

Angels 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Torii Hunter hit a two-run homer—his third long shot in as many games—to help Los Angeles down Chicago.

Los Angeles starter Joe Saunders (3-5) allowed just one run in 7 2-3 innings.

Paul Konerko led off the ninth with a home run for Chicago, and A.J. Pierzynski singled with one out. Omar Vizquel pinch ran and advanced to second on a passed ball with two outs. However, Brian Fuentes finally recovered to strike out Alexei Ramirez to end the game and notch his fifth save.

Royals 8, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Yuniesky Betancourt hit a three-run double in Kansas City's five-run ninth inning, securing victory over Cleveland.

Indians closer Kerry Wood (0-2) tossed his glove into the stands as he walked off the field to a chorus of boos, after allowing five runs while getting only one out in 30 pitches.

ZERO DOWN

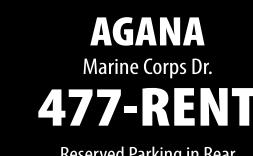
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Behind Johndel's Supermarket



Next to Subway

Five in a row for Shakir, IT&E

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roelyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



S h a -
kir Re-
alty and
IT&E retained the lead in their
respective pools after prevailing
over separate foes during
Sunday's games in the 2010
MGD/MBFNMI 35A Masters
Basketball League at the Gil-
bert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Shakir played in the third
match and thumped Grease
Lightning, 75-63, to improve to
a 5-0 record and kept the lead in
Pool B.

Eric Lansang and Francis Re-
buyon joined forces in Shakir's

fifth straight win, firing 33 and
28 points respectively.

Grease Lightning, which re-
mained winless in five games,
kept Shakir at bay in the first
three quarters, trailing by only
a hair entering the final canto,
50-51, before Lansang and Re-
buyon stepped on the pedal in
the fourth.

Lansang scored Shakir's
first five points and made
successive baskets, anew
midway in the fourth, while
Rebuyon fired eight of the
team's last 11 points.

IT&E 72, Above the Rim 56

In the fourth game, IT&E also

used a fourth-quarter break-
away to post a 72-56 win over
Above the Rim.

The win was IT&E's fifth in
a row, allowing the team to re-
main on top of Pool A.

IT&E led by only nine at the
end of the third period, 48-39,
but cruised to an easy win after
limiting Below the Rim to eight
points in the final canto.

Below the Rim dropped to a
2-4 mark.

9ers 77, Brabu Bulls 75

In the first game, 9ers withstood
Brabu Bulls fourth-quarter rally
to eke out a 77-75 win.

9ers gained their third win in

six games, while Brabu Bulls
absorbed their second loss in
five matches.

Alan Lebria and Roy Miguel
combined for 10 points in the
fourth period to foil Brabu
Bulls' comeback bid.

Konflikt 101, CGD 78

In the second match, Konflikt
had a walk in the park against
CGD, 101-78.

Konflikt drew double figures
from five players to improve to a
4-1 record. Martin Moreno
top-scored for Konflikt with
20 points, Junar Guiab added
16, Hae Jun Park chipped in
13, and Jun Alipio and Roel
Aguilar contributed 12 and
10, respectively.

CGD fell to a 1-4 record.

9ers 77, Brabu Bulls 75

In the first game, 9ers withstood
Brabu Bulls fourth-quarter rally
to eke out a 77-75 win.

9ers gained their third win in

double digits, 94-83, with 1:33
left in the game.

Aqua Resort led by as much
as 17 in the second and third
quarters, before MBI threatened
them and moved within four,
83-87, with 2:54 left on the
clock. Ivan De Vero had the
opportunity to cut the lead to three,
but missed his bonus shot.

After De Vero's miss, Aqua
Resort answered with a short
7-0 run to seal the win. Aquino
canned a pair of charities, Pedro
Lizama connected on a triple,
and Gil Gapor drilled a layup to
bring Aqua Result's lead back to

13, respectively.

Aqua Resort trailed in the
first quarter, 23-31, before Ga-
por and Lizama led a comeback
in the second quarter scoring
nine markers each to put the
team in the lead at the break,
50-46. Lizama hit a triple in the
last few seconds of the second
quarter and Aqua Resort carried
on the momentum in the third to
eliminate MBI.

Lizama paced Aqua Resort
with 28 points, while Gapor
tallied 23, his biggest output of
the season. Glenn Aquino and
Jessie Mina chipped in 19 and

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Aqua Resort led by as much
as 17 in the second

Perfect season intact for pennant champions

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Pennant champions Patriots kept its perfect season intact with a 17-3 victory against Fielders in the Junior Division of the 2010 Saipan Little League last weekend at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

It was the 13th win a row for the Docomo-backed squad, while the loss dropped Fielders to 7-4.

The home team Pats started a little slow, but turned it on later in the game.

After holding off the Fielders in the top of the first, the Pats' Jared Sablan led off the bottom with a walk, worked his usual way around the bases and came home off a one-out RBI triple by Jeremy Rabauliman.

Christian Mizer came next and busted a RBI triple to score Jeremy Rabauliman.

Later in the top of the third, the Fielders briefly tied the game with Khobby Kaipat recording a two-RBI single that scored Ian Rogolifo and Poland Masaharu.

But in the bottom half, the Pats' top of the order took a four-run lead.

Sablan led off with a single and was driven in by Jeremy Rabauliman. Mizer then drew a walk and Henry Rabauliman came next and singled in Jeremy. Mizer and Henry Rabauliman would eventually come to the plate off errors.

The Fielders struggled at the plate for answers while the Pats added a run in the fourth, four runs in the sixth, and then poured salt in the wound with six more in the last inning.

Notables of the game include winning pitcher Christian Mizer, who al-



WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
Davin Ada, left, and Keene Guerrero are all smiles after leading the Athletics to a 6-5 win over the Northerns in the Junior Division of the 2010 Saipan Little League last weekend at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

lowed an earned run in five innings with seven strikeouts, four hits, and a hit by pitch. He also batted 2-for-4 with an RBI, three runs, and a base on balls.

Jeremy Rabauliman batted 4-for-5 with three RBIs, four runs, and two stolen bases. Jared Sablan batted 1-for-2 with an RBI, four runs, three base on balls, and four stolen bases.

Survivors 7, Lions 5

The Survivors evened out their record to 6-6 after defeating the winless Lions who fell to a 0-13 win-loss slate.

The home team Lions struck first in the bottom of the second.

Before scoring himself from third, Justin Reyes brought in lead off batter, KC Jones with a RBI triple.

Then the Lions added another run in the bottom of the third from an RBI

double by Yobech Brel that scored Cedric Ada.

Then in the top of the fourth, the Survivors came to life and got a couple of runs back from Vicente Cabrera who led off with a single and scored off an error.

Later with one out, Nick Jones Jr. singled in Daniel Smith Jr.

The Survivors took a brief lead in the top of the fifth when Paul Celis and Jeffery Lizama both scored off errors.

In the bottom half, Catalina Dela Cruz tied the game at 4-4 after scoring and reaching off errors.

In the top of the sixth, the Survivors scored a run from Jones Jr. who led off with a walk and scored off an error.

Then in the bottom half, the Lions came back to tie it up again when Justin Santos knocked in Davie Matagolai, who led off with a single.

Gorilla Warfare champ wins fight in Iraq



As the islands' premier fight promoters, Gorilla Warfare MMA prepares for its first fight on Tinian next weekend, it is fitting to hear that Tinian's own Keli "The Rukiz" Manglona won in a recent Armed Forces Combatives Tournament in Joint Base, Balad in Iraq.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Manglona, who is now part of a weapons troop with the 57th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron out of Nellis Air Force in Las Vegas, competed in the Phoenix Support Combatives Tournament in the 185-lb. cruiserweight division and became the cruiserweight champion for Joint Base Balad.

"Yes, I competed in the Armed Forces Combatives MMA tournament and actually did pretty well. I competed in the 185-lb. cruiserweight division and now I am the cruiserweight champion for Joint Base Balad," said Manglona.

"It was a good time, man, it was a really tough competition but I kept to it and pulled through victorious," he said. One of the guys that helped put the event together was 2nd LT. Alan Villanueva. He is a super cool guy."

"We are extremely excited to hear that Keli continues to do well and taking his MMA skills to new heights. The people of Tinian should be proud of their son and this is one of the main reasons we are bringing our fight event to Tinian," said Gorilla Warfare MMA promoter Mark Sablan.

Manglona won the GWMMA mid-



SGT. RYAN TWIST
Air Force Airman 1st Class Keli M. Manglona of Tinian in action against Spc. Billy C. Avery in the cruiserweight division of the Armed Forces Combatives Tournament held last April in Joint Base, Balad in Iraq.

Gorilla Warfare is hosting "Into the Jungle," its first amateur fight bout next Saturday, May 29, at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino at 6pm. Tickets are now on sale at Boarderline Surf and Skate Shop in Garapan.

The 80th Ordnance Company out of Fort Lewis, Wash., sponsored the Phoenix Support Combatives Tournament last April at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation east at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Although 112 signed up, 87 soldiers, sailors, and airmen weighed in and competed in the third tournament

sponsored by the 80th, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Richard C. Mantooth, the JBB corps storage area accountable officer with the 63rd Ordnance Company, 80th Ord. Batt., 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command.

Mantooth, a level four instructor of Modern Army Combatives and a Biloxi, Miss., native, said the event was the second tournament the 63rd Ord. Co. hosted.

Fighters traveled from other bases to compete, said Mantooth. The event offered service members a chance to vary their routine and eliminate some monotony from day-to-day operations, he said. Mantooth said he thought the event went well.

"We had a packed house," he said. "People were standing, squatting, fighting for seats and it stayed that way throughout the day. We kept the gym packed."

During the last tournament, he said he saw a great amount of technique and was pleased with the strikes, but was more impressed by the competitors who participated.

"We give these guys an opportunity to be champions, to showcase their skills," he said. "It goes to show you that even though we are over here in Iraq, thousands and thousands of miles away, we're still trying to bring soldiers together, compete, and have fun and try to bring the best out of one another. That's really what these tournaments are about." (With material from *Blackanthe Military News*)

With the game even at 5-5 to start the seventh, the Survivors took a two-run lead and put the pressure back on the Lions.

Cabrera doubled in Jeffery Lizama for the go-ahead run and an out later, Smith Jr. busted a double that scored Lizama.

In the bottom half, the Lions managed to get a runner on third base, but could not convert the two runs needed to put the game into overtime.

Athletics 6, Northerns 5

The A's edged out the Northerns, 6-5, and improved their win-loss record to 3-9, while the Northerns are all but bringing up the rear with a 2 and 10 win-loss mark.

Notables of the game include A's Davin Ada who batted 2-for-3 with an RBI, two runs, and two stolen bases. Keene Guerrero batted 3-for-3 with two RBIs and four stolen bases. Guer-

ro, also the A's winning pitcher, went five innings and allowed three earned runs with eight strikeouts, four hits, and two walks.

Red Sox 5, Ol'Aces 4

The Red Sox upset the Ol'Aces and improved to an 8-4 win-loss record while the Aces dropped to 10-3.

Winning pitcher Lancaster Sec-harmidal allowed two earned runs in six and 1/3 innings pitched with five strikeouts, six hits, and three walks. Jeremy Lizama pitched three and 1/3 shutout innings with two strikeouts, two hits, two walks, and a hit by pitch for the save.

Offensive notables include Jonathan Cabrera and Kyle Hocog. Hocog batted 1-for-3 with two RBIs, a run, a stolen base, and was hit by two pitches. Cabrera batted 1-for-4 with two runs, a base on balls, and two stolen bases.

DFS netfest kicks off today



The 29th Annual DFS Micronesian Championships will begin today with competitions in the junior singles and adults doubles at the Pacific Islands Club and American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The junior singles and adults doubles will be played in the first weekend of the two-weekend event and will serve as a fundraiser for CNMI players who will represent the North Pacific Team to the 2010 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji this August.

The annual tournament will also be a last warm-up for Commonwealth junior players competing in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament. The CNMI will host the NPQ next month with winners in the three age groups to get slots on the North Pacific Team.

In this week's junior singles, the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will be having competitions in the girls and boys U18, U14, and U12, and in the co-ed U10 (mini tennis).

The men's doubles will feature three divisions; open, 4.0, and 40-and-above, while the women's doubles will have the combined 4.0/open category and the 2.0/3.0 division. The mixed doubles will also have two divisions, 4.0/open and 2.0/3.0.

Next week, NMITA will have the adults singles and junior doubles. Deadline for the submission of regis-



ROSELYN B. MONROY
Clayton Izuka is seen here going for a backhand return against Aaron Lee during the CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last month at the AMP tennis courts. Izuka and the CNMI's junior netters will be competing in this weekend's DFS tennis tournament.

tration forms and fees is May 23.

The men's singles will have six divisions; 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 4.5, open, and 40-and-above. The women's singles will have only three categories, 2.0/3.0, open/4.0, and 40-and-above.

In the juniors doubles, there will only be two divisions for both boys and girls; U12 and U16. (Roselyn B. Monroy)

Third Pacific Games golf qualifier Sunday



The third round of a series of qualifying tournaments to determine the makeup of the CNMI National Golf Team to the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea will be held this Sunday.

Coordinator Jess Wabol said the qualifier will have a check-in time of 11am and tee time of 12pm at the west course of the sprawling Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Wabol reminded players wishing to join the third qualifier that they should contact organizers before the event for the pairings.

Six qualifying tournaments will be played to select the five golfers who will represent the CNMI to the Pacific

Games in New Caledonia in September next year. All scores in the six qualifying rounds will be added to determine the rankings of the qualifiers. An optional seventh round will be scheduled, too to give golfers who will miss one qualifier to make up. Pacific Games hopefuls can also use the optional round to drop their lowest score in the first six rounds.

The fourth trial will be played on June 19 and the last two will take place on July 19 and Aug. 21. Venues for the fourth to sixth qualifying tournaments will be announced later.

For more information, contact Jess Wabol at 288-1129, Edward Manibusan at 235-6520, Jeff Taylor at 483-2513, or Jordon Kosam at 483-4506. (Saipan Tribune)



Lakers hold off Suns, take 2-0 series lead
PAGE 32

Saipan Tribune Sports



36 FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

PIC, Aqua sets title duel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Upsets marked the semifinal round of the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League with Pacific Islands Club and Aqua Resort Club stunning their higher-seeded opponents on Wednesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

PIC nailed a methodical 98-79 win over World Resort/Advance X-Terminators in the second semis game, while Aqua Resort topped Micronesian Brokers, Inc. in the first semis tiff, 102-92. Incidentally, World Resort/Advance and MBI squared off in last year's finals, but failed to arrange a rematch, as they dug themselves in a deep hole early and ran out of gas and time to recover and pull off come-from-behind wins.

Aqua Resort and PIC will begin their best-of-three



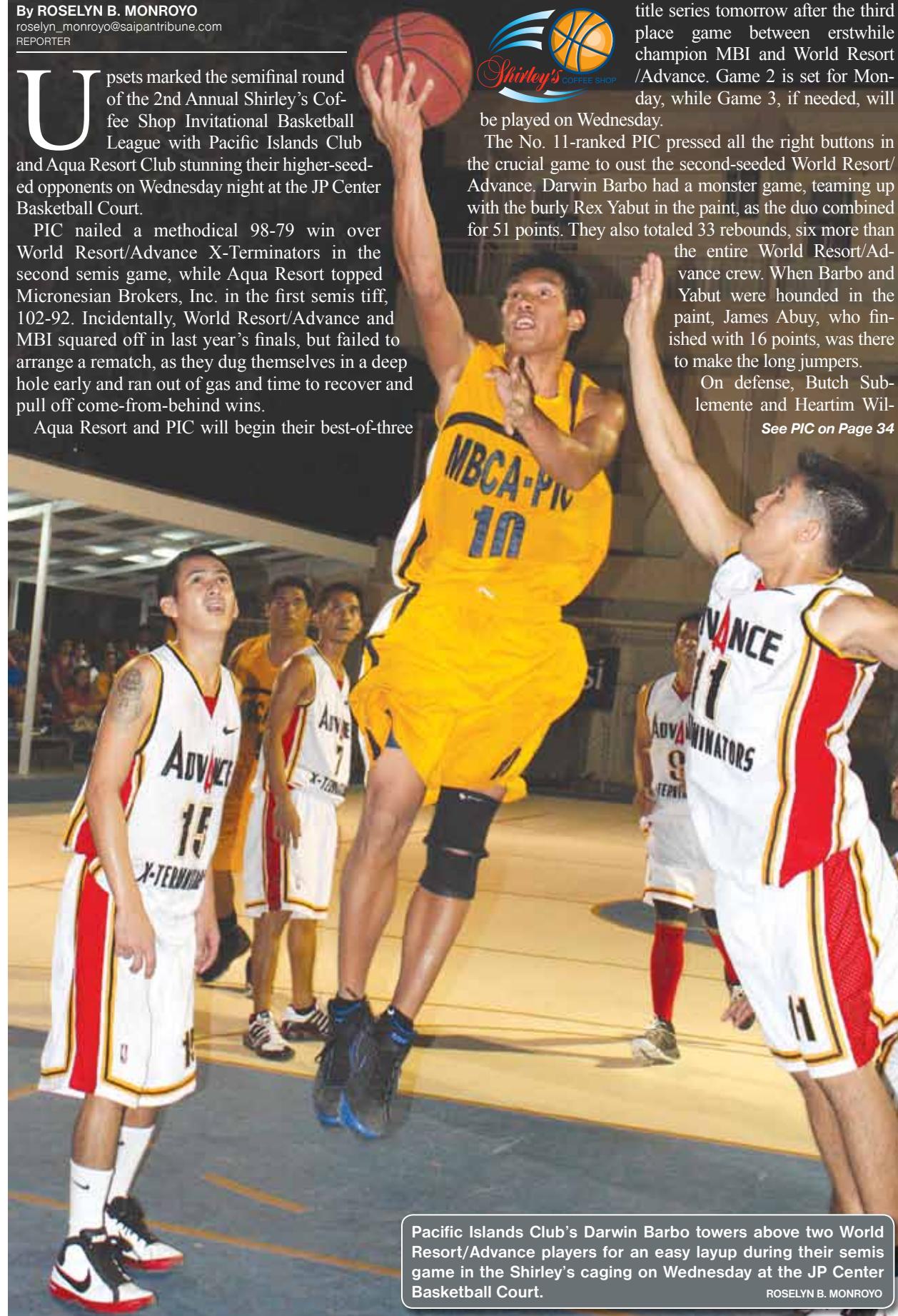
title series tomorrow after the third place game between erstwhile champion MBI and World Resort/Advance. Game 2 is set for Monday, while Game 3, if needed, will

be played on Wednesday.

The No. 11-ranked PIC pressed all the right buttons in the crucial game to oust the second-seeded World Resort/Advance. Darwin Barbo had a monster game, teaming up with the burly Rex Yabut in the paint, as the duo combined for 51 points. They also totaled 33 rebounds, six more than the entire World Resort/Advance crew. When Barbo and Yabut were hounded in the paint, James Abuy, who finished with 16 points, was there to make the long jumpers.

On defense, Butch Sublemente and Heartim Wil-

See PIC on Page 34



Pacific Islands Club's Darwin Barbo towers above two World Resort/Advance players for an easy layup during their semis game in the Shirley's caging on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Field observations

Generation gap is a term that was popularized in the 1960s to describe the differences between people of a younger generation and their elders. It's also one way to describe the 2010 Saipan Major League championship.

The Fielders and Brewers' five-game series was truly one for the, uh, ages.

While the Fielders had to worry about curfew, the Brewers had to worry about Medicare.

The Fielders had grey uniforms. The Brewers had grey hair.

Most of the Fielders were born at the Commonwealth Health Center. Most of the Brewers were born in Doctor Torres hospital. Or in caves.

From the Department of Whack Stats: add the ages of the Brewers starting nine, subtract that from our current year of 2010 and it comes out to be the year Magellan discovered the Mariana Islands.

While Fielders' girlfriends texted in the stands, Brewers' wives were taking care of their grandchildren.

Yet the Brew Crew nearly came through, coming within one inning

See FIELD on Page 34

Battle Brawl goes down tonight at World Resort



WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

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REPORTER

Local fighters in the main event of tonight's Trench Warz 12: Battle Brawl got to measure themselves against their Korean opponents during the weigh-in last night at the Club V of the Saipan Grand Hotel. Giovanni "Palaksi" Sablan from

Trench Tech Purebred Saipan will be fighting Young Nam "The Hippo" Ku of Korea Top Team in a catch weight 150-lb. main event bout.

Ku, a 26 year-old with a 4-6 win loss record in his five-year MMA career, claims he does not know much about his opponent, except that he is a well-

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Top seed teams continue winning ways

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Three squads in the top half of the team standings of Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League ended their regular season with separate victories on Wednesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

In the first game, Man Amigos downed Lancheros, 19-6, to conclude the round-robin regular season with a 17-3 record and seal the No. 3 spot in the playoffs. Only the Top 10 teams will advance to the playoffs.

J.J. Laniyo hit a grand slam at the bottom of the first inning en route to a perfect performance at bat, as he went 3-for-4 and scored two runs, one double, and six RBIs. Julian Camacho went 3-for-4 and logged three runs and four RBIs.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Man Amigos' J.J. Laniyo, seen here picking up a grounder in a local tournament early this year, hit a grand slam in Man Amigos' 19-6 triumph against the Lancheros on Wednesday night in the Chamolinian softball league at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

